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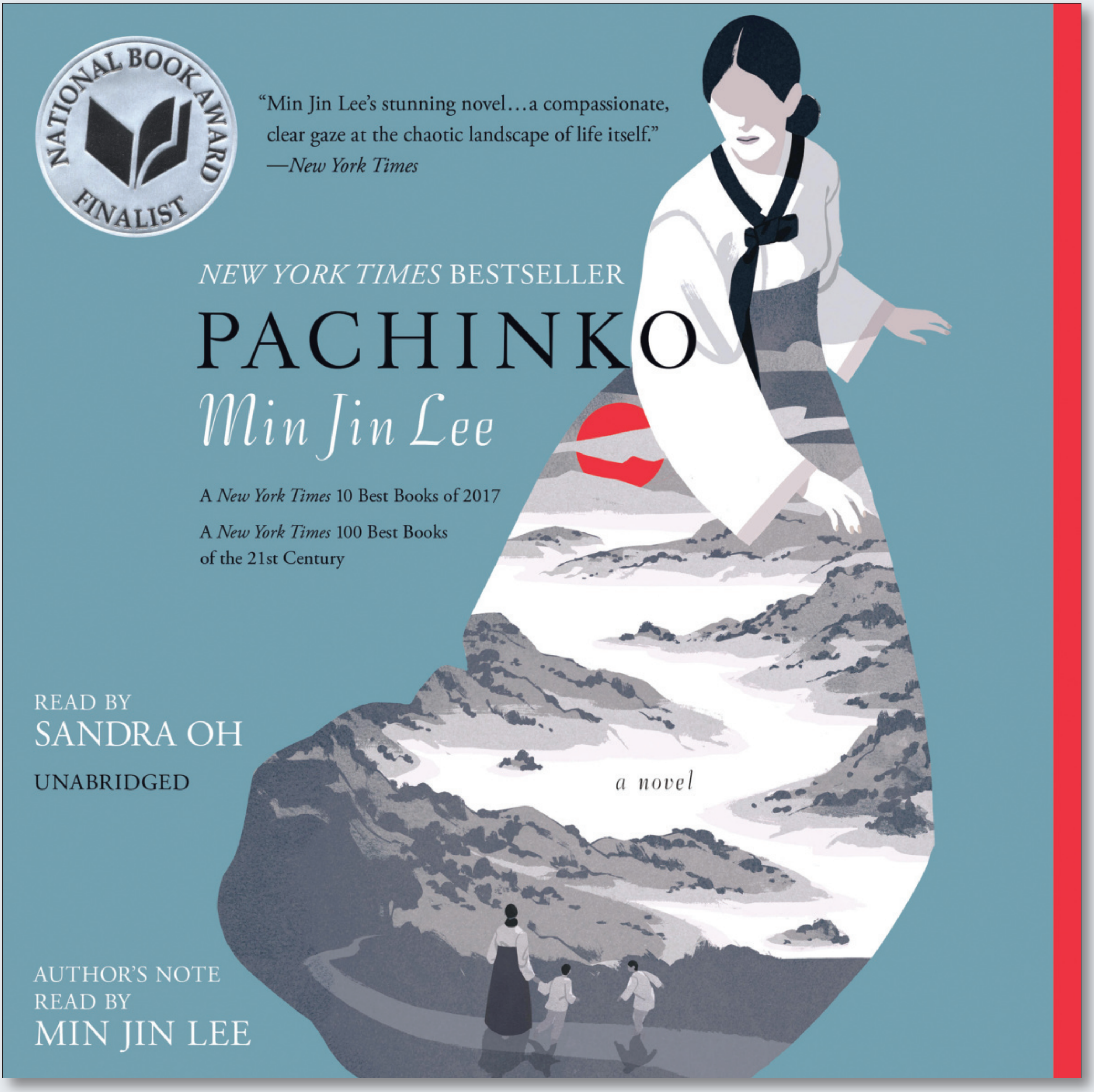
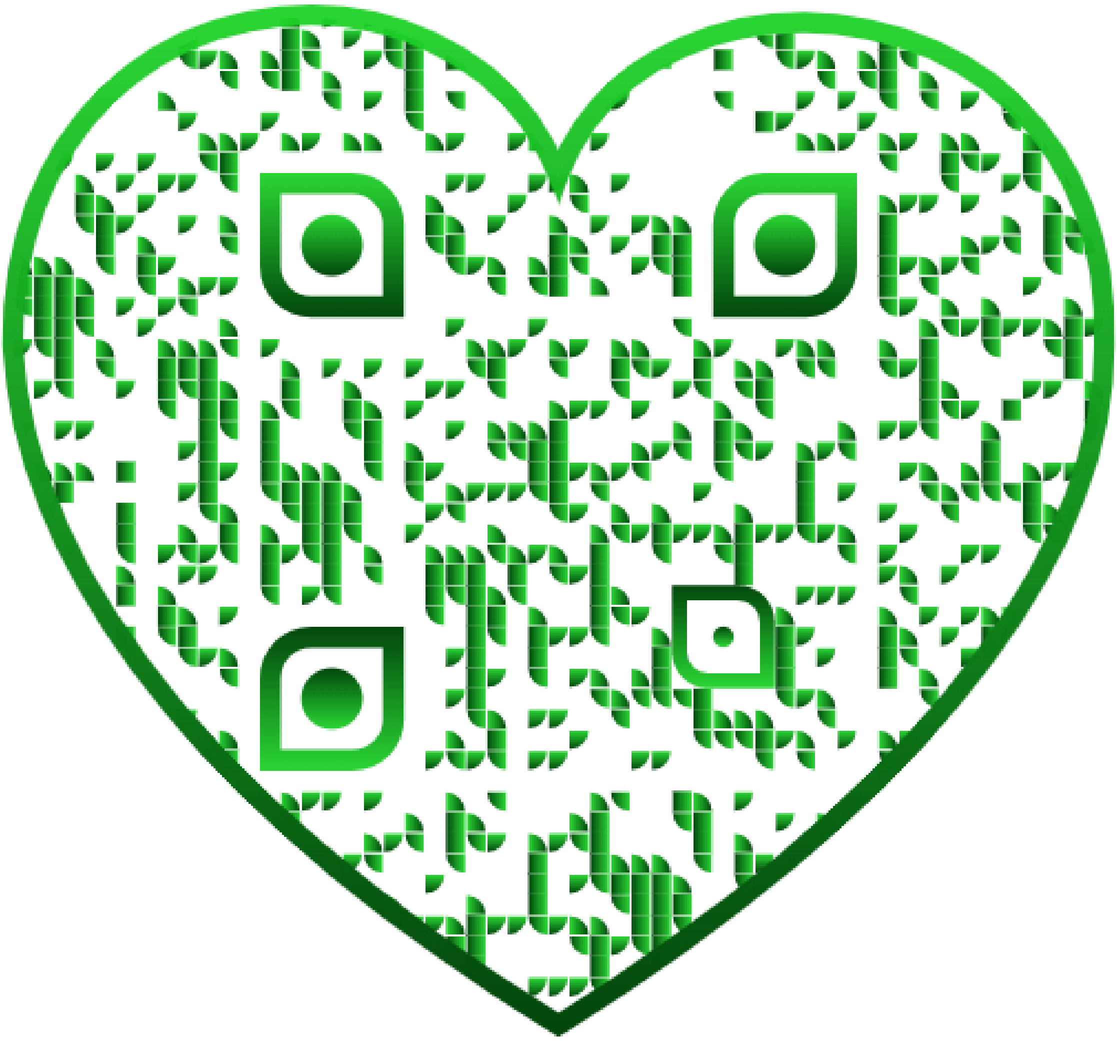

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST
"Min Jin Lee's stunning novel…a compassionate, clear gaze at the chaotic landscape of life itself." —New York Times
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
PACHINKO
Min Jin Lee
A New York Times 10 Best Books of 2017
A New York Times 100 Best Books of the 21st Century
a novel
READ BY SANDRA OH
UNABRIDGED
AUTHOR'S NOTE READ BY MIN JIN LEE

February/March 2025
USA $6.00/Canada $8.00



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My Mother, My Brother, and Me
When the World Tips Over
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Kiley Reid
Shanghai
Joseph Kanon
Jason Reynolds
Twenty-four Seconds from Now...
Our Hidden Conversations
What Americans Really Think About Race and Identity
Michele Norris
Louise Penny
The Grey Wolf
The Cemetery of Untold Stories
Julia Alvarez

THE YEAR IN AUDIOBOOKS 2024

The Warm Hands of Ghosts
Katherine Arden
John Lewis
A Life
David Greenberg
Kristin Hannah
The Women
Dangerous Visions
Edited by Harlan Ellison
Stanley Tucci
What I Ate in One Year
When Among Crows
Veronica Roth
Bridges Instead of Walls
The Story of Mavis Staples
Casey McQuiston
The Pairing
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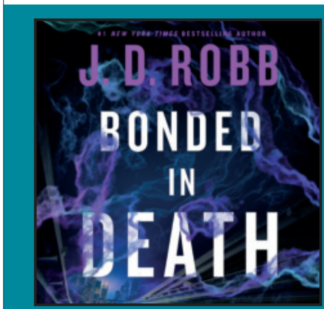
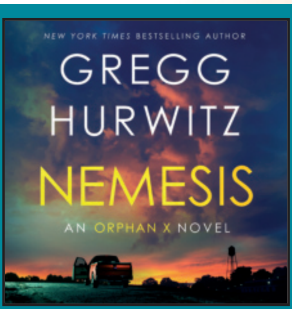

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
J. D. ROBB
BONDED IN DEATH

READ BY SUSAN ERICKSEN


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
GREGG HURWITZ
NEMESIS
AN ORPHAN X NOVEL

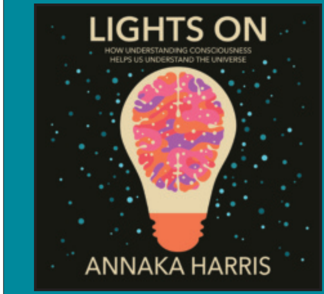
READ BY SCOTT BRICK

MARIE BENEDICT
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
THE QUEENS OF CRIME
A NOVEL

READ BY BESSIE CARTER

SAVING FIVE
A MEMOIR OF HOPE
AMANDA NGUYEN

READ BY SURA SIU


LIGHTS ON
HOW UNDERSTANDING CONSCIOUSNESS HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE UNIVERSE
ANNAKA HARRIS

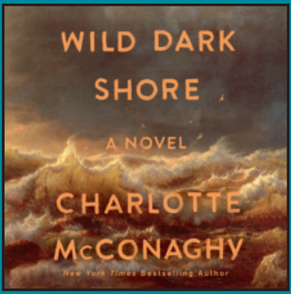
READ BY THE AUTHOR

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
ELLE COSIMANO
FINLAY DONOVAN DIGS HER OWN GRAVE
a novel
"Finlay Donovan is irresistible!" —JANET EVANOVICH

READ BY ANGELA DAWE

THE RIVER HAS ROOTS
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
AMAL EL-MOHTAR

READ BY GEM CARMELLA


WILD DARK SHORE
A NOVEL
CHARLOTTE McCONAGHY
New York Times Bestselling Author

READ BY A FULL CAST

L.A. THEATRE WORKS **LATW**

SUSAN A. LOEWENBERG, PRODUCING DIRECTOR

Tennessee Williams's iconic work is an evocative memory play about an eccentric Southern family, revolving around the domineering Amanda Wingfield and her grown children: the cynical Tom and the fragile Laura. This all-star production reunites the cast of the Roundabout Theatre's celebrated revival, which earned Drama Desk® Awards for Kevin Kilner *(A Cinderella Story)* as Jim, and, in her Broadway debut, Calista Flockhart *(Ally McBeal)* as Laura.

PLAYS. STARS. OUTSTANDING LISTENS.

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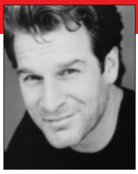
Calista Flockhart

John Goodman

Julie Harris



Kevin Kilner

PHOTO OF JOHN GOODMAN BY JOHN MATHEW SMITH AND CELEBRITY-PHOTOS.COM . ALL OTHER PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS.

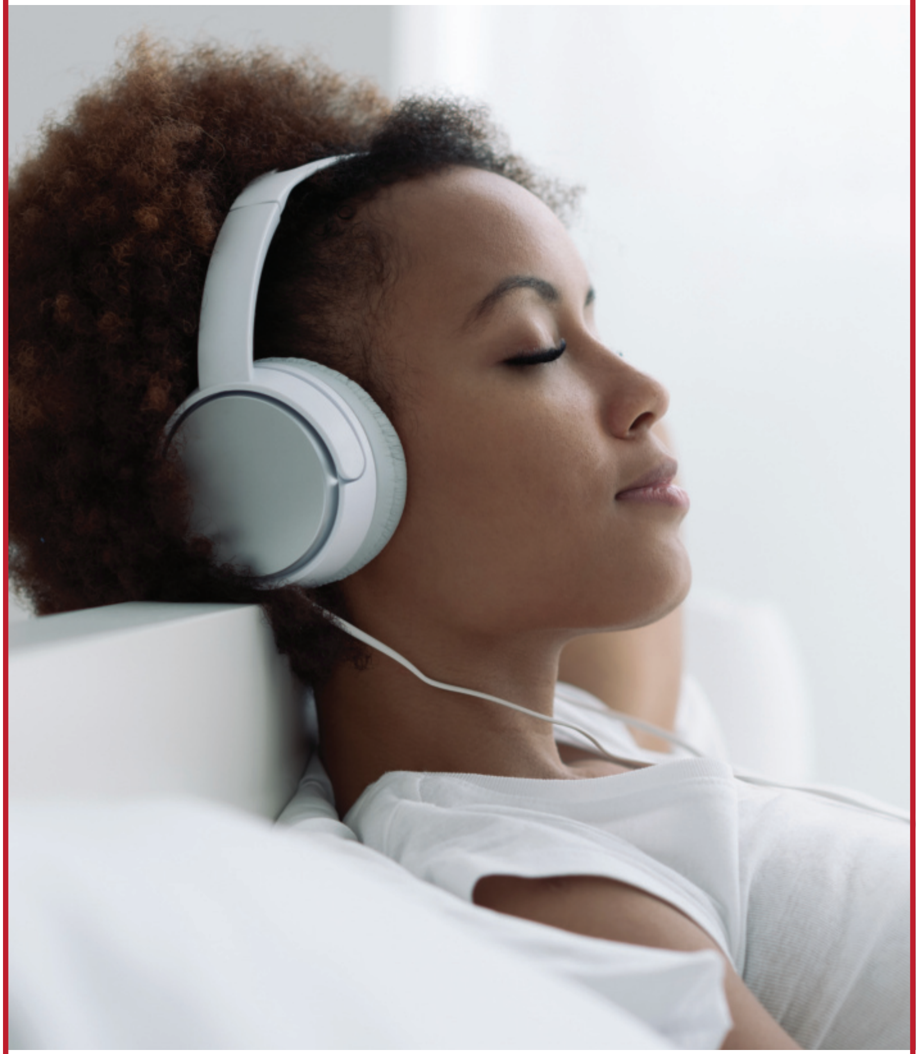
NEW RELEASE!

L.A. THEATRE WORKS LATW
SUSAN A. LOEWENBERG, PRODUCING DIRECTOR
CALISTA FLOCKHART
JULIE HARRIS
JOHN GOODMAN
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
The Glass Menagerie
Directed by GORDON HOUSE

Get ready to experience the brilliance of Tennessee Williams!

This year, we're bringing four of his most famous plays to audio. Starting with *The Glass Menagerie,* followed by *A Streetcar Named Desire, Summer and Smoke,* and the Tony® Award-winning Best Play of 1951, *The Rose Tattoo.*

Find your next great listen.



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Vol. 33, No. 5
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Contributors: Kevin Brusie, Leslie Fine

AudioFile's Mission

AudioFile reviews unabridged audiobooks, original audio programs, commentary and dramatizations in the spoken-word format. Our focus is the audio presentation, not critique of the written material.

AudioFile reviewers are listeners in the information, education, and performance fields. All reviews are signed.

AudioFile awards Earphones to truly exceptional presentations that excel in all the following criteria:

- Narrative voice and style
- Vocal characterizations
- Appropriateness for the audio format
- Enhancement of the text

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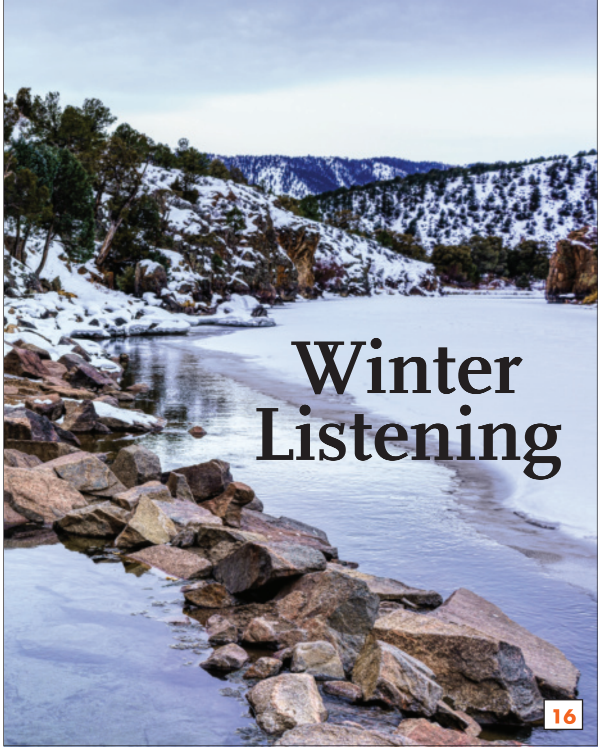
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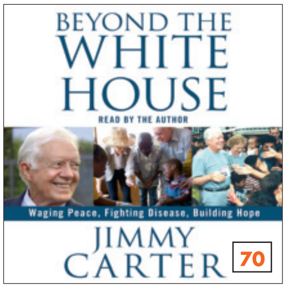
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READ BY THE AUTHOR
Waging Peace, Fighting Disease, Building Hope
JIMMY CARTER
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THE MESSAGE
TA-NEHISI COATES
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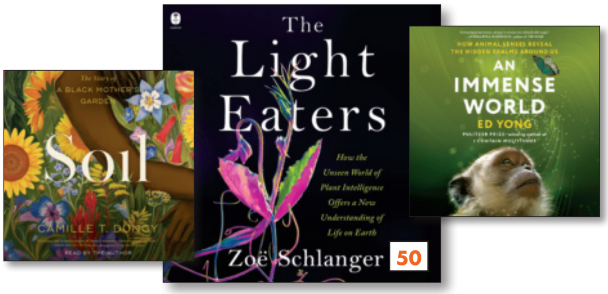
Soil
CAMILLE T. DUNGY
The Light Eaters
Zoë Schlanger
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ED YONG
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Min Jin Lee photo by Art Streiber

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listening
choices

Illustration: Jada Fitch

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Finding Great Audiobooks

▶ How do we find great audiobooks? Just this week the "we" of *AudioFile* went over the multiple steps we take to shepherd audiobooks that end up as our "Review of the Day" (social media post), "Editors' Picks" (magazine and social posts), an "Earphones Award" winner (magazine, website, newsletters, and social postings).

Managing Editor Jennifer Dowell outlined her process with typical understatement. She pores over publishers' announcements; checks advance "new & notable" lists, often from library resources; follows the releases from known authors; and considers recommendations direct from narrators and producers as well as from audio publishers who take the time to highlight special projects for us. In addition, she watches and listens for which authors are being interviewed and what books are talked about on other media. She can swivel from source to source much like an owl can rotate its head. No wonder she is fond of owls!

The result of all this gathering is a steady stream of potentially interesting audiobooks—first going out to our reviewers for their listening evaluations and then coordinating the placement and platform for each review. Remember that while you see about 175 reviews in this magazine edition, we publish an additional 200+ reviews exclusively to the *AudioFile* website in the same two-month period. The weekly newsletters, Behind the Mic podcast, and social postings are updated regularly, and our collaborating partners LitHub, Children's Book Review, BookTrib, Novel Suspects, NoveList, Overdrive, and Midwest Tape regularly feature our recommendations. Retailers Barnes & Noble, Audible, and Libro.fm share our reviews as well. As you can imagine, the owl also must be an octopus to juggle and position our reviews in front of our readers/listeners.

I love lists, and putting together our curated lists has always been a favorite. We have an entire section of the *AudioFile* website—**audiofilemagazine.com/lists**—where we've collected topic-inspired selections. Have a look at "Audiobooks for Black History Month and Beyond." In this issue, our feature on nature writing (page 51) must have put me in an anthropomorphic state of mind. Our selected list of audiobooks about the earth, backyards, wild lands, and fascinating animals and creatures offers inspiring ideas for engaging with the season ahead. Crows and fireflies, but no owls.

Happy listening, and please explore all the different sources where you can find our reviews and recommendations!

Robin Whitten

Robin Whitten
Editor and Founder

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Photo by Kevin Brusie

Contributors

Michele Cobb

Kevin Brusie

Tom Walken

Leslie Fine

Aurelia Scott

Kevin Brusie
Kevin Brusie ("Listening With" photo, page 72) has a passion for capturing images, and he's photographed many listeners for *AudioFile* over the years. His goal when creating an environmental portrait is an exchange—"I give my vision: lighting, perspective, experience. The subject presents their true self, no façades." More of his work can be seen at **kevinbrusie.com**.

Michele Cobb
Michele Cobb (Lisa Gardner and Hillary Huber interview, page 38) is such a fan of audiobooks that she wears many hats in the industry, including publisher of *AudioFile* Magazine. She regularly travels around the globe talking about the growth of the format. Her favorite audiobook is *Blindness* by Jose Saramago, read by Jonathan Davis.

Leslie Fine
For 31 years, Leslie Fine (Min Jin Lee profile, page 28) has shared her enthusiasm for literature with the students in her high school English classes. After school hours, she can be found doing something creative or outdoorsy—often with family, and other times while listening to audiobooks. She is a longtime reviewer for *AudioFile*.

Aurelia C. Scott
Aurelia C. Scott (Kristin Atherton profile, page 22, and "Cats and Magic: Listening to Japanese Audiobooks in Translation," page 24) loves being an *AudioFile* contributing editor because she is able to hear a wanton number of audiobooks and interview occasionally wanton authors and narrators. Herself the author of an award-winning nonfiction book about competitive rose gardeners, Aurelia is also working on a memoir of women and lingerie, and what might be a historical mystery set in a boarding house.

Tom Walken
Contributing Editor Tom Walken ("Learning by Ear," Page 54) began writing for *AudioFile* in 1995 when he was in psychology and managing a mental health practice. He says his nonfiction listening helps his executive coaching practice and makes his outdoor walks more stimulating. His free time is spent with music, cooking, family, and fixing things.

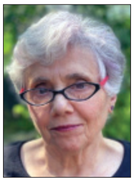
Kevin Brusie photo by Sharyn Brusie, Michele Cobb photo by Max Flatow

Reviewers

A.K.R.

A.L.C.

B.P.


E.Q.

G.M.

J.M.D.

A.A.H.	Ash Holland, *Bookshop Owner*, ME
A.B.	Anna Broome, *Audiophile*, ME
A.C.S.	Aurelia C. Scott, *Writer*, ME
A.D.M.	Alan Minskoff, *Educator*, ID
A.K.R.	Alex Richey, *Librarian*, ME
A.L.C.	Amanda Costello, *Writer*, NE
A.M.	Ana G. Menchaca, *Librarian*, TX
B.J.P.	Bonnie J. Powell, *Audiophile*, NJ
B.P.	Brian Price, *Playwright/ Director*, IN
E.Q.	Ellen Quint, *Writer*, NY
G.M.	Gina Monti, *Librarian*, CT
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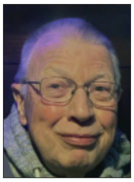
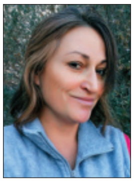
J.E.M.	Joyce E. McCarty, *Audiophile*, VA
J.M.D.	Jennifer M. Dowell, AudioFile, ME
J.M.M.	John M. Murray, *Audiophile*, CA
J.R.T.	Julie Thompson, *Librarian*, WA
J.T.	Jessica Teel, *Writer*, AK
K.D.W.	Kendra Winchester, *Writer*, SC
K.J.P.	Kate Pullen, *Writer*, Spain

C.J.C.

C.R.


D.A.W.


J.T.

K.S.M.

M.B.

C.A.	Caitlin Augusta, *Librarian*, CT
C.F.	Catherine Fithian, *Librarian & Bookseller*, CA
C.J.C.	CJ Connor, *Writer*, UT
C.R.	Courtney Rodgers, *Writer*, TX
D.A.W.	David A. Walton, *Writer*, PA
D.B.	Dan Bortolotti, *Writer*, ON
D.E.M.	Dale E. McGarrigle, *Writer*, ME
D.J.S.	Daniel J. Siegel, *Audiophile*, PA
D.L.G.	Diana Granger, *Librarian*, WI
D.M.H.	David M. Harris, *Writer*, TN
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E.J.F.	Elizabeth Fraser, *Calgary Public Library*, AB
K.M.P.	Katie Polley, *Librarian*, MN
K.S.M.	Kate S. McDonald, *Educator*, CT
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L.M.	Liz Maloney, *Contract Librarian*, MD
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L.T.	Lisa Taylor, *Librarian*, FL
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M.B.K.	Miriam B. Kahn, *Librarian*, OH
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M.F.	Maya Fleischmann, *Writer*, VA
M.J.	Michelle J. Ritholz, *Audiophile*, NY

Continued on page 71

Want to be part of *AudioFile*'s review team?

While we work with more than 100 reviewers, we are always interested in new reviewers. We value fresh opinions across all genres. If you are a very active listener, have writing experience, and are interested in discussing the audiobook performance in 125 words or less—you are welcome to apply to editor Robin Whitten, **robin@audiofilemagazine.com**.

Reviewer Spotlight

Ana Menchaca (A.M.)

Reading has been a lifelong passion instilled in me by my father. Audiobooks are the perfect way to satisfy my reading sweet tooth as I navigate being a children's librarian at a public library and spending time with my family, which includes two very energetic children. I listen to audiobooks when I drive and as I go about my day. I've had many driveway moments and carry headphones with me at all times for when pausing is not an option.

Randy O'Brien (R.O.)

I'm a longtime reader, but my obsession with audiobooks began when I had a forty-five-minute one-way commute. That was about the length of one side of a cassette tape. Remember those? I advanced to CDs and, eventually, sound files on phones. Audiobooks allowed me to enjoy long books like *Moby Dick* and *Crime and Punishment* when I might have stopped when I got too tired to pick them up.

Editors' Picks

GERALDINE BROOKS
Memorial Days: A Memoir
Read by Geraldine Brooks

Novelist Brooks reflects on the life and death of her partner, author Tony Horwitz, and her own journey through the loss.

Penguin Audio   Unabridged
Trade: DD ISBN 9798217064236 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217064243 $57.00
Release date: February 4

LIBBA BRAY
Under the Same Stars
Read by January LaVoy,
Jeremy Carlisle Parker, Major Curda

Three timelines—in Germany during WWII and the Cold War and NYC during the COVID-19 lockdown—are connected.

Macmillan Audio   Unabridged   Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250353993 $26.99
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250383303 $69.99
Release date: February 4

RICK STEVES
On the Hippie Trail
Read by Rick Steves

Travel writer Rick Steves's journal of his trip through Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Nepal when he was 23 years old.

Hachette Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD 9781668647875 $18.99
Release date: February 4

ANNE TYLER
Three Days in June
Read by J. Smith-Cameron

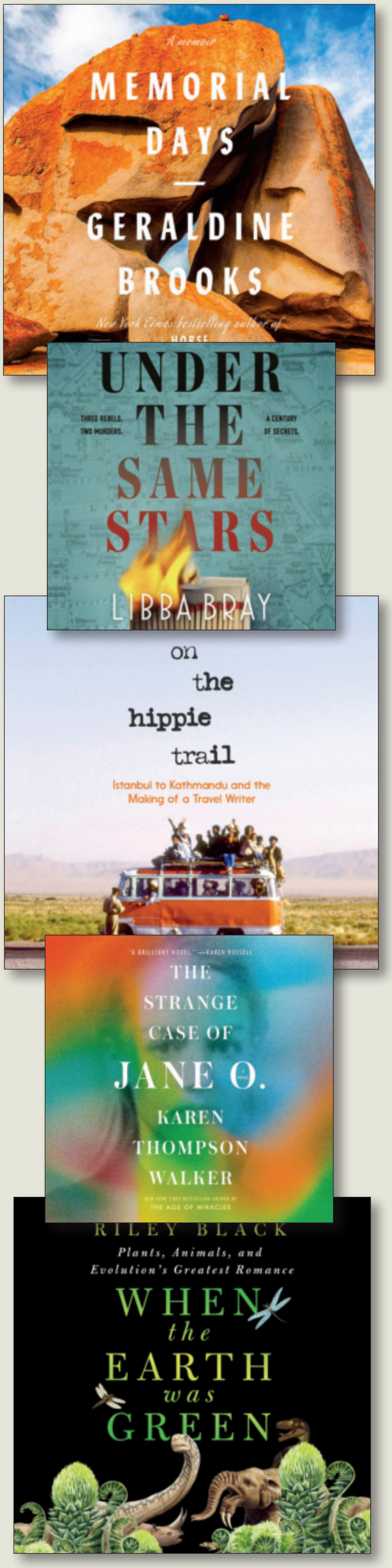
A mother navigates the days leading up to her daughter's wedding.

Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217013593 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217013609 $66.50
Release date: February 11

ADRIANNA CUEVAS
What Fell from the Sky
Read by Giordan Diaz, P.J. Morgan, Matt Haynes, Beth Hicks, Cary Hite, et al.

In this middle-grade adventure, Pineda tries to keep his strange new friend from the U.S. government.

Dreamscape   Unabridged   Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781666679236 $48.99
Release date: February 11


A memoir
MEMORIAL DAYS
GERALDINE BROOKS
New York Times bestselling author of
UNDER THE SAME STARS
THREE REBELS. TWO MURDERS.
A CENTURY OF SECRETS.
LIBBA BRAY
on the hippie trail
Istanbul to Kathmandu and the Making of a Travel Writer
THE STRANGE CASE OF JANE O.
KAREN THOMPSON WALKER
RILEY BLACK
Plants, Animals, and Evolution's Greatest Romance
WHEN the EARTH was GREEN

MARY OLIVER
Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver
Read by Kimberly Farr

Mary Oliver's poems remain meaningful for many, and we've loved Kimberly Farr's performances of her work.

Penguin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217162758 $22.50
Release date: February 18

RILEY BLACK
When the Earth Was Green: Plants, Animals, and Evolution's Greatest Romance
Read by Wren Mack

This should be a fascinating prehistory of our world.

Macmillan Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250354211 $26.99
Release date: February 25

CURTIS SITTENFELD
Show Don't Tell: Stories
Read by Michael Crouch, Curtis Sittenfeld, George Newbern, Xe Sands, Emily Rankin, Nicole Lewis, Kristen Sieh

Seven narrators, including author Sittenfeld, read this new story collection.

Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade: DD ISBN 9798217065219 $20.00
Release date: February 25

KAREN THOMPSON WALKER
The Strange Case of Jane O.
Read by Jay Myers, Alex Sarrigeorgiou

From the author of *The Age of Miracles*, a novel about a young mother who suffers mysterious psychological incidents.

Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade: DD ISBN 9798217065936 $20.00
Release date: February 25

ADRIAN MCKINTY
Hang on St. Christopher
Read by Gerard Doyle

Sean Duffy tries to solve a murder and faces danger while the Troubles in Northern Ireland are still simmering. Inimitable Golden Voice Gerard Doyle returns to narrate.

Blackstone Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD ISBN 9781504780827 $34.95
(also MP3, DD)
Release date: March 4

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NIC STONE

Dear Manny: Dear Martin, Book 3

Read by James Fouhey, Nic Stone

Following *Dear Martin* and *Dear Justyce,* Stone asks, what are the right ways to advocate for change and equality?

Listening Library Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217067725 $25.00
Release date: March 4

AMAL EL-MOHTAR

The River Has Roots

Read by Gem Carmella

Two sisters stay devoted to each other, even as their lives intersect with the land of Faerie.

Macmillan Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250353351 $10.99
Release date: March 4

JOHN GREEN

Everything Is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection

Read by John Green

Green gives an impassioned plea to address the healthcare inequalities that allow tuberculosis to continue to afflict people.

Listening Library Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217082391 $15.00
Release date: March 18

SUZANNE COLLINS

Sunrise on the Reaping

Reader TBA

This prequel to *The Hunger Games* finds Haymitch Abernathy competing in the fiftieth annual Games.

Scholastic Audiobooks Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: CD ISBN 9781546171485 $44.99 (also DD)
Release date: March 18

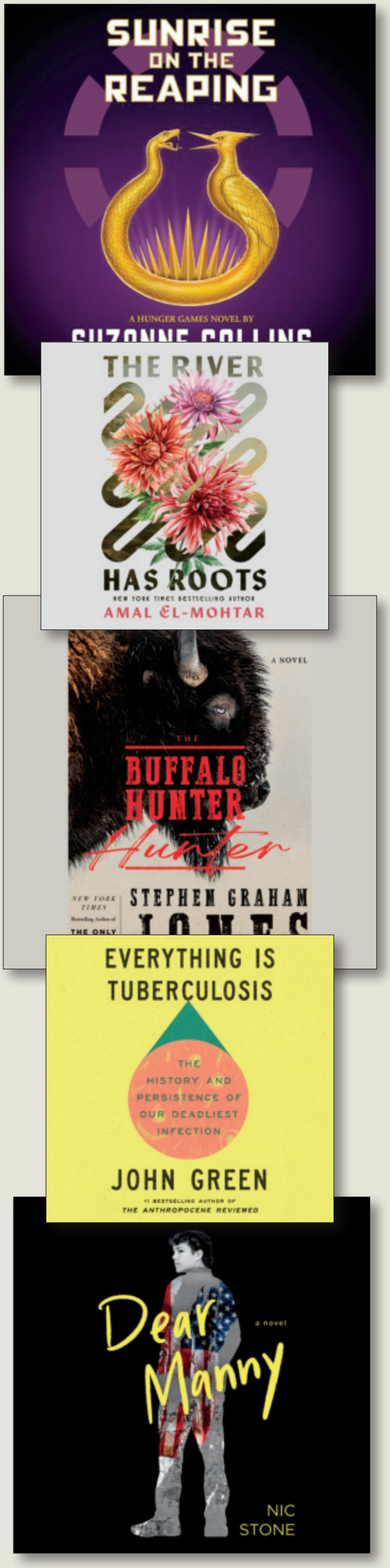
TESS GERRITSEN

The Summer Guests: The Martini Club, Book 2

Read by Hillary Huber

In this follow-up to *The Spy Coast,* former spy Maggie Bird's quiet life in Maine is disturbed once more.

Brilliance Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781501267994 $42.99
Release date: March 18


SUNRISE ON THE REAPING
A HUNGER GAMES NOVEL BY
SUZANNE COLLINS
THE RIVER HAS ROOTS
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
AMAL EL-MOHTAR
A NOVEL
THE BUFFALO HUNTER Hunter
STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES
EVERYTHING IS TUBERCULOSIS
THE HISTORY AND PERSISTENCE OF OUR DEADLIEST INFECTION
JOHN GREEN
#1 BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE ANTHROPOCENE REVIEWED
Dear Manny
a novel
NIC STONE

MARY ROBINETTE KOWAL

The Martian Contingency: Lady Astronaut, Book 4

Read by Mary Robinette Kowal

Kowal continues her alternate-history Lady Astronaut series, which she narrates herself with exemplary skill.

Audible, Inc. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD $14.95
Release date: March 18

STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES

The Buffalo Hunter Hunter

Read by Shane Ghostkeeper, Marin Ireland, Owen Teale

New historical horror from Jones, in which a vampire haunts the Blackfeet reservation in the American West.

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668117323 $23.09
Release date: March 18

NATASHA PULLEY

The Hymn to Dionysus

Reader TBA

Pulley (*The Mars House*) turns to the Greek gods in this new historical fiction.

Bloomsbury Publishing Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Release date: March 18

JOHN SCALZI

When the Moon Hits Your Eye

Read by Wil Wheaton

The moon has turned into actual cheese! Chaos ensues.

Audible, Inc. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD $29.95
Release date: March 25

JEFF CHU

Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand

Read by Jeff Chu

It's not too early to start thinking about the garden, and Jeff Chu's meditation on learning to work on a farm might be just the inspiration we need.

Random House Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217020492 $20.00
Release date: March 25

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Cozy Up to New Audiobooks: Selections

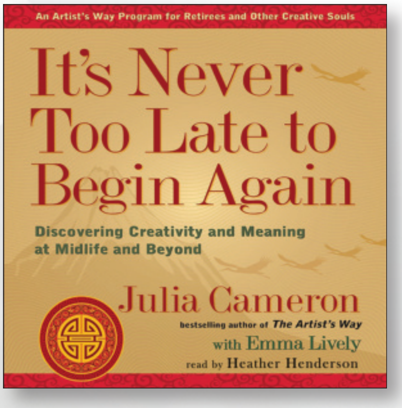
The Great Christmas Kidnapping Caper
JEAN VAN LEEUWEN
Can three brave mice save Christmas?
FULL CAST AUDIO
UNABRIDGED
WRITTEN BY JEAN VAN LEEUWEN
READ BY DANIEL BOSTICK & THE FULL CAST FAMILY

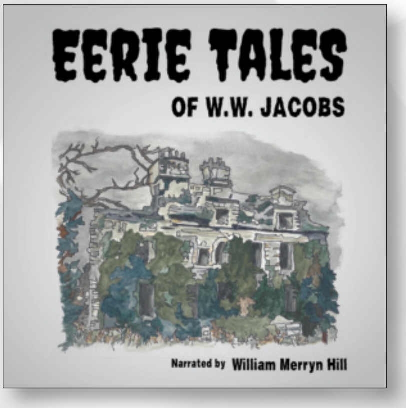
"Daniel Bostick and the gang at Full Cast Audio are pitch-perfect at voicing these comic characters as if they were smaller, kinder Sopranos. Kids will love this adventure, and, most likely, a number of grandparents will want to listen to this instant Christmas classic, as well."
—*AudioFile*

The Great Christmas Kidnapping Caper
By Jean Van Leeuwen, read by Daniel Bostick and the Full Cast Family
Published by FULL CAST AUDIO
Available Now / DD

Julia Cameron has inspired millions with her bestseller on creativity, *The Artist's Way*. In *It's Never Too Late To Begin Again*, she speaks to a segment of the population that may have more time to be creative, but is often reluctant or intimidated by the creative process. Retirement can be a rich, fulfilling, and creative time of your life!

It's Never Too Late to Begin Again: Discovering Creativity and Meaning at Midlife and Beyond
By Julia Cameron, read by Heather Henderson
Published by POST HYPNOTIC PRESS INC.
Available Now / DD


An Artist's Way Program for Retirees and Other Creative Souls
It's Never Too Late to Begin Again
Discovering Creativity and Meaning at Midlife and Beyond
Julia Cameron
bestselling author of The Artist's Way
with Emma Lively
read by Heather Henderson


EERIE TALES
OF W.W. JACOBS
Narrated by William Merryn Hill

The nineteenth century saw the birth of the 'chiller.' Many critics at the end of the century considered the writings of W.W. Jacobs in this genre to be comparable with Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* or Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, among the "gilt edged classics." Here is a collection of nine of W.W. Jacobs best known eerie tales.

Eerie Tales of W.W.Jacobs
By W.W. Jacobs, read by William Merryn Hill
Published by SPOKEN REALMS
Available Now / DD

Hill of Beans is an unforgettable memoir of growing up in an eccentric Depression-era southern family. It is written with brutal but non-judgmental honesty about the people and times of the author's boyhood. The book debuted to glowing reviews by Roy Blount, Jr., Diane McWhorter, Robert Morgan, and Janisse Ray, among others. The audiobook is beautifully read by Chris Abernathy.

Hill of Beans
By John Snyder, read by Chris Abernathy
Published by WAYBACK PUBLICATIONS LLC
Available Now / DD

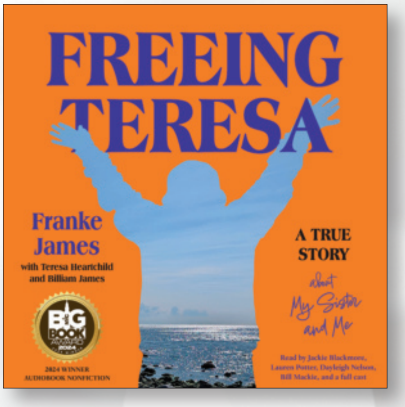
JOHN SNYDER
HILL of BEANS
Best of 2012 KIRKUS REVIEWS
WARNING
COMING OF AGE
in the Last Days of the Old South

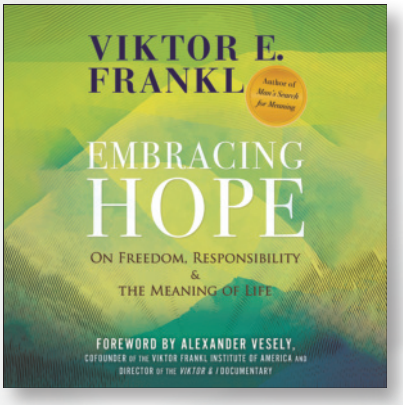
from Independent Publishers & Authors

Winner, Audiobook Nonfiction, 2024 NYC Big Book Award

A full cast of thirteen, starring Jackie Blackmore and Lauren Potter, brings this true story about disability and family conflict to life. “What sets *Freeing Teresa* apart is its emotional intensity... Yet, amidst the darkness, the love between Franke and Teresa shines brightly.” —*Literary Titan*

Freeing Teresa: A True Story About My Sister and Me
By Franke James (with Teresa Heartchild and Billiam James),
read by Jackie Blackmore, Lauren Potter, Dayleigh Nelson, and a Full Cast
Published by THE JAMES GANG, ICONOCLASTS INC.
Available Now / MP3


FREEING TERESA
Franke James
with Teresa Heartchild and Billiam James
A TRUE STORY
about My Sister and Me
BIG BOOK 2024
2024 WINNER AUDIOBOOK NONFICTION
Read by Jackie Blackmore, Lauren Potter, Dayleigh Nelson, Bill Mackie, and a full cast


VIKTOR E. FRANKL
Author of Man's Search for Meaning
EMBRACING HOPE
ON FREEDOM, RESPONSIBILITY & THE MEANING OF LIFE
FOREWORD BY ALEXANDER VESELY,
COFOUNDER OF THE VIKTOR FRANKL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA AND DIRECTOR OF THE VIKTOR & I DOCUMENTARY

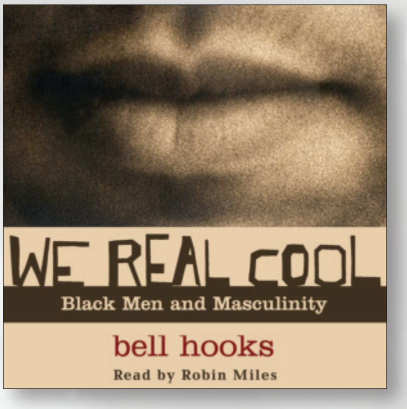
From the bestselling author of *Man’s Search for Meaning,* newly rediscovered reflections on freedom, responsibility, and drawing meaning from the temporary nature of our lives.

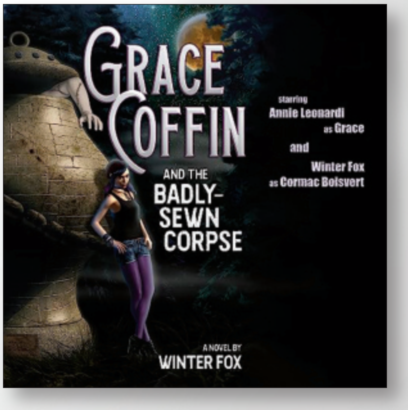
At a time of global suffering where so many are searching for hope and meaning, this collection is more relevant and more important than ever.

Embracing Hope: On Freedom, Responsibility & the Meaning of Life
By Viktor E. Frankl, read by Steve West
Published by BEACON PRESS
Available Now / DD / $24.00

In this powerful book, bell hooks looked at how both white society and weak black leader are failing black men and youth. A recent listener wrote: “...it hit so close to home, the reflection it caused was overwhelming. Very necessary, though. … I feel that my life will change from here on out ... must read for black men. Full stop.”

We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity
By bell hooks, read by Robin Miles
Published by POST HYPNOTIC PRESS INC.
Available Now / DD


WE REAL COOL
Black Men and Masculinity
bell hooks
Read by Robin Miles


GRACE COFFIN AND THE BADLY-SEWN CORPSE
starring Annie Leonardi as Grace
and Winter Fox as Cormac Bolsvert
A NOVEL BY WINTER FOX

Author Winter Fox and Voice Actress Annie Leonardi take the narrative in turns, revealing a deeply humanistic tale about living and not-quite-dying. A fun book for mystery and horror fans with a sense of humor. The first of four books in the Grace Coffin series.

Grace Coffin and the Badly-Sewn Corpse
By Winter Fox, read by Annie Leonardi and Winter Fox
Published by WINTER FOX BOOKS
Available Now / DD

Cozy Up to New Audiobooks: Selections

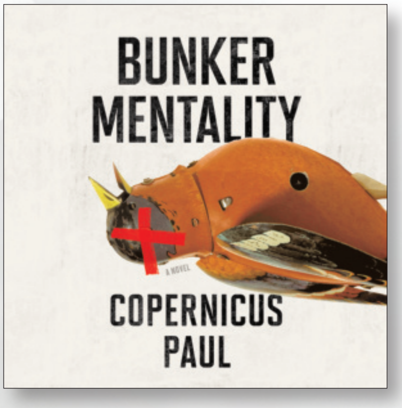
DIAMOND
THE MEMOIR OF A LOST DAUGHTER OF JAPAN
ETSUKO DIAMOND MIYAGI

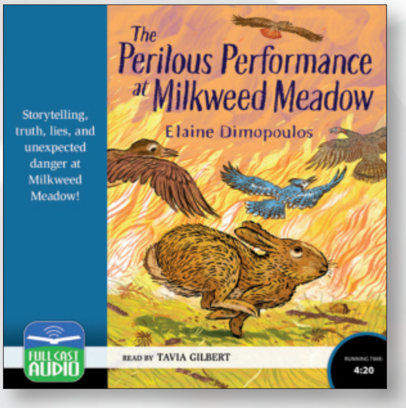
Diamond tells the tale of a small girl orphaned in a hostile foreign country who must live by her wits and courage until fate decides to favor her many years later. The story rolls back the curtain on a time and place about which little has been written. It is a story of personal triumph.

Diamond: The Memoir of a Lost Daughter of Japan
By Etsuko Diamond Miyagi, read by Anne Marie Lewis
Published by JAYMIL PRODUCTS & SERVICES, LLC
Available Now / MP3 / $17.46

Inspired by true events, *Bunker Mentality* is Joseph Heller's *Catch-22* meets David Graeber's *Bullshit Jobs*, exploring the meaning of war, morality, madness, honor, and courage in a world of utter insanity.

Bunker Mentality
By Copernicus Paul, read by George Weightman
Published by MOUNT WILSON PUBLISHING
Available Now / DD


BUNKER MENTALITY
A NOVEL
COPERNICUS PAUL


The Perilous Performance at Milkweed Meadow
Elaine Dimopoulos
Storytelling, truth, lies, and unexpected danger at Milkweed Meadow!
FULL CAST AUDIO
READ BY TAVIA GILBERT
RUNNING TIME
4:20

Award-winning narrator Tavia Gilbert returns with her trademark wit and sensitivity to narrate this delightful sequel to the wonderful *Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow*—a dazzling story of lies and truth, treachery and betrayal, honor and bravery that Booklist calls "a stellar sequel" and Kirkus praises as "whimsical, witty, wise!"

The Perilous Performance at Milkweed Meadow
By Elaine Dimopoulos, read by Tavia Gilbert
Published by FULL CAST AUDIO
Available Now / DD / $11.99

Presenting the first ever Audio Film, *Some Thing Borrowed*.

Combining the striking narration of an audiobook with the multicast acting performances normally found in a dramatization and/or audio performance, Some Thing Borrowed is a uniquely immersive, cinematic audio experience in the horror genre that feels like a theatre of the mind, and can only be described as: an Audio Film.

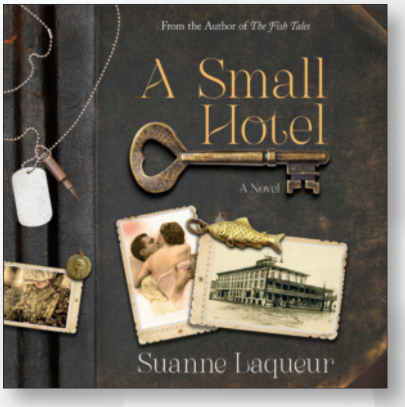
Some Thing Borrowed
By Emanuel Nisan, read by Jeff Dylan Garrett
Published by AUDIO FLICKS
Available Now / Streaming Audio

SOME THING BORROWED
SCREENPLAY WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY EMANUEL NISAN
AUDIO FLICKS

from Independent Publishers & Authors

With her signature blend of soul-stirring prose and emotional complexity, Laqueur explores the beautiful, often terrible acts of love made in times of war. Narration by Earphones Award winner Darren Eliker illuminates the experience of an ordinary family thrown into extraordinary circumstances, and their once-in-a-generation courage and resiliency.

A Small Hotel
By Suanne Laqueur, read by Darren Eliker
Published by SUANNE LAQUEUR
Available Now / DD


From the Author of The Fish Tales
A Small Hotel
A Novel
Suanne Laqueur

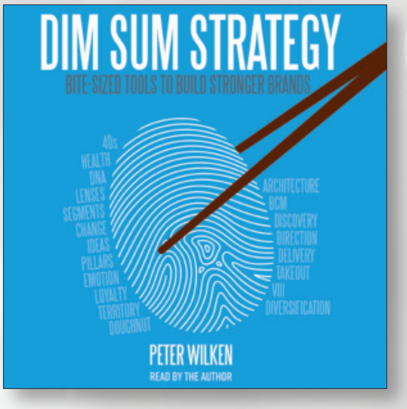
The Witches of Windsor: Book 2
The Witchfinder's Sacrifice
A Novel
RANDE GOODWIN

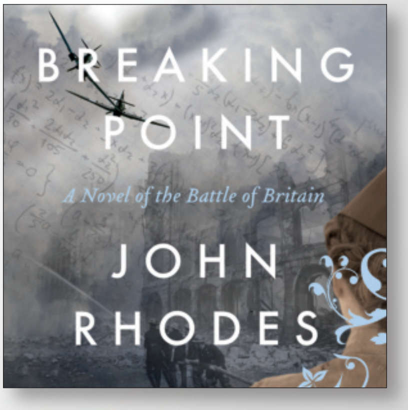
Something wicked has returned. As hellish monsters and once-dead creatures arrive, it becomes clear that evil warlock Hodge is back to unleash a twenty-first-century witch hysteria. With the help of his friends and a beautiful, mysterious visitor, Nate searches for a way to defeat Hodge for good and save his town from dark magick before it's too late.

The Witchfinder's Sacrifice
By Rande Goodwin, read by Nick Mondelli
Published by GREENLEAF BOOK GROUP
Available Now / MP3 / $17.95

Peter Wilken, the 'father of Brand DNA,' offers a curated selection of proven strategic tools, with insights and anecdotes from three decades working with some of the world's leading brands at the world's top agencies. It follows the author's proven Brand Centered Management™ process. Full of real-world examples and Peter's infectious enthusiasm, if you're in business, you need this book.

Dim Sum Strategy: Bite-Sized Tools to Build Stronger Brands
By Peter Wilken, read by Peter Wilken
Published by POST HYPNOTIC PRESS INC.
Available Now / DD


DIM SUM STRATEGY
BITE-SIZED TOOLS TO BUILD STRONGER BRANDS
40s
HEALTH
DNA
LENSES
SEGMENTS
CHANGE
IDEAS
PILLARS
EMOTION
LOYALTY
TERRITORY
DOUGHNUT
ARCHITECTURE
BCM
DISCOVERY
DIRECTION
DELIVERY
TAKEOUT
VIII
DIVERSIFICATION
PETER WILKEN
READ BY THE AUTHOR


BREAKING POINT
A Novel of the Battle of Britain
JOHN RHODES

1940, World War II. The Nazis have crushed Europe, and Hitler launches a massive aerial assault with the Luftwaffe against the heavily outnumbered British RAF. The fate of civilization teeters in the balance.

Breaking Point: A Novel of the Battle of Britain
By John Rhodes, read by Evie Butcher
Published by ROUNDEL HOUSE
Available Now / DD

Cozy Up to New Audiobooks: Selections

The Original Classic with a New Introduction by the Author
More than 48 million copies sold worldwide
THE HITE REPORT
SHERE HITE
A Nationwide Study of Female Sexuality

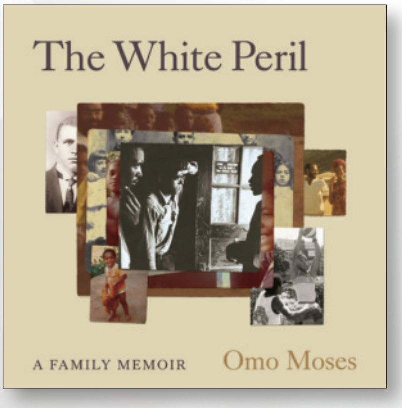
Published in 1976, *The Hite Report* was a sexual revolution. At a time when men told women how to feel about sex, Hite did something unheard of. She asked women. Over 3,000 women answered sensitive questions about the most intimate details of women's sexuality. This multicast recording is the first time it has been available in unabridged audio.

The Hite Report: A National Study of Female Sexuality
By Shere Hite, read by Karissa Vacker, Janina Edwards, Reece Cowley, Robin Miles, Soneela Nankani, Emily Lawrence, Lisa Bunting, Dawn Harvey, Kitty Hendrix, Heather Henderson, Greta Jung
Published by POST HYPNOTIC PRESS INC.
Available Now / DD

"Searing, honest, vulnerable, profound, and undeniable. I loved it."
—Ben Affleck, actor, writer, filmmaker and CEO, *Artists Equity*

From the son of legendary civil rights organizer Robert P. Moses: a brilliant, unflinching memoir about becoming Black in America that interweaves voices from 3 generations of the Moses family.

The White Peril: A Family Memoir
By Omo Moses, read by Kevin Free
Published by BEACON PRESS
Available Now / DD


The White Peril
A FAMILY MEMOIR
Omo Moses

THE BROKEN LANDS
KATE MILFORD
narrated by SAMANTHA TAN

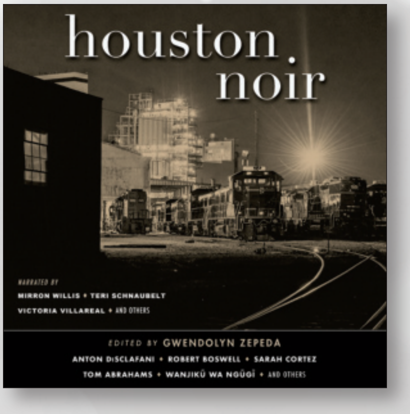
The spine-tingling prequel to Kate Milford's *The Boneshaker*.

Few crossroads compare to the one being formed by the Brooklyn Bridge and the East River, and as the bridge's construction progresses, forces of unimaginable evil seek to bend that power to their advantage. Only two orphans stand in their way.

The Broken Lands
By Kate Milford, read by Samantha Tan
Published by GROUND CHERRY PRESS LLC
Available Now / DD

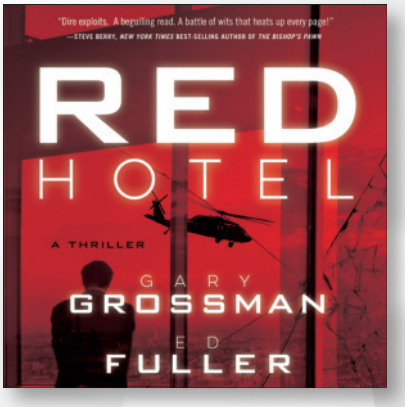
Brand-new stories by: Tom Abrahams, Robert Boswell, Sarah Cortez, Anton DiSclafani, Stephanie Jaye Evans, Wanjiku Wa Ngugi, Adrienne Perry, Pia Pico, Reyes Ramirez, Icess Fernandez Rojas, Sehba Sarwar, Leslie Contreras Schwartz, Larry Watts, and Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton.

Houston Noir
By Gwendolyn Zepeda, *Editor*, read by Mirron Willis, Teri Schnaubelt, Victoria Villareal, and Others
Published by GROUND CHERRY PRESS LLC
Available Now / DD


houston noir
NARRATED BY
MIRRON WILLIS • TERI SCHNAUBELT
VICTORIA VILLAREAL • AND OTHERS
EDITED BY GWENDOLYN ZEPEDA
ANTON DiSCLAFANI • ROBERT BOSWELL • SARAH CORTEZ
TOM ABRAHAMS • WANJIKŨ WA NGŨGĨ • AND OTHERS

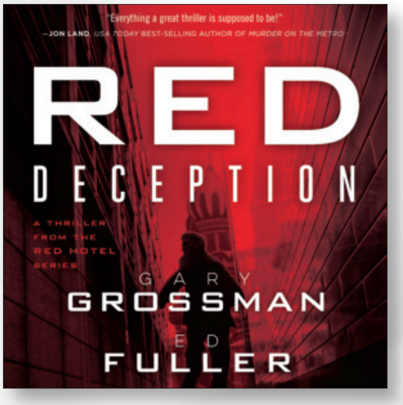
BE READY TO BE CATAPULTED INTO THE REAL WORLD OF GLOBAL INTRIGUE!

from Independent Publishers & Authors


"Dire exploits. A beguiling read. A battle of wits that heats up every page!"
—STEVE BERRY, NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF THE BISHOP'S PAWN
RED
HOTEL
A THRILLER
GARY
GROSSMAN
ED
FULLER

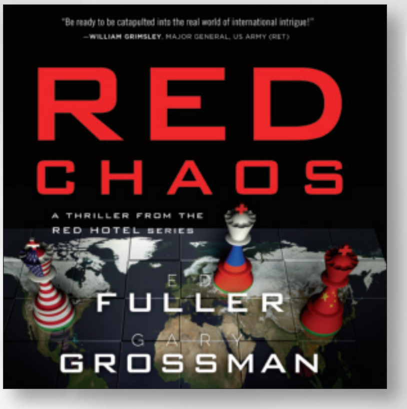
After a deadly bombing at Tokyo's Kensington Royal Hotel, ex-Army intelligence officer turned hotel executive, Dan Reilly, pursues the assassin and uncovers a global conspiracy orchestrated by a superpower. Reilly races against time to unravel the plot against NATO's security, while questioning whether the mysterious and alluring Marnie Babbitt, can be trusted.

Red Hotel: The Red Hotel Series, Book 1
By Gary Grossman & Ed Fuller, read by P.J. Ochlan
Published by THE RED HOTEL LLC
Available at Audible / MP3-CD


"Everything a great thriller is supposed to be!"
—JON LAND, USA TODAY BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF MURDER ON THE METRO
RED
DECEPTION
A THRILLER FROM THE RED HOTEL SERIES
GARY
GROSSMAN
ED
FULLER

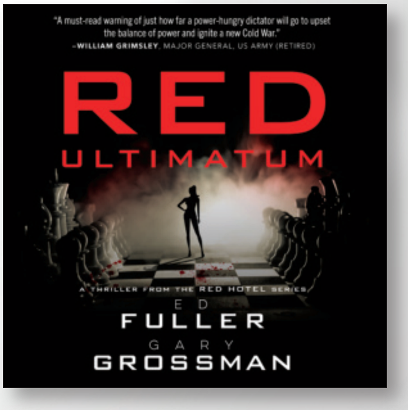
When terrorists target U.S. infrastructure using a leaked State Department report, former Army intelligence officer Dan Reilly uncovers a global, Russian-led conspiracy full of traps and traitors. Can Reilly connect the dots to a hugely explosive geopolitical plot and even save the woman who may be part of it?

Red Deception: The Red Hotel Series, Book 2
By Gary Grossman & Ed Fuller, read by P.J. Ochlan
Published by THE RED HOTEL LLC
Available at Audible


"Be ready to be catapulted into the real world of international intrigue!"
—WILLIAM GRIMSLEY, MAJOR GENERAL, US ARMY (RET)
RED
CHAOS
A THRILLER FROM THE RED HOTEL SERIES
ED
FULLER
GARY
GROSSMAN

Dan Reilly is back in action in a heart-pounding thriller—the stakes can't be higher. As the Arctic ice melts, Russian President Nicolai Gorshkov seeks to control international oil routes to fund a greater Russian Empire. The clock ticks toward disaster on land and under the sea with Reilly at his best.

Red Chaos: The Red Hotel Series, Book 3
By Ed Fuller & Gary Grossman, read by P.J. Ochlan
Published by THE RED HOTEL LLC
Available at Audible


"A must-read warning of just how far a power-hungry dictator will go to upset the balance of power and ignite a new Cold War."
–WILLIAM GRIMSLEY, MAJOR GENERAL, US ARMY (RETIRED)
RED
ULTIMATUM
A THRILLER FROM THE RED HOTEL SERIES
ED
FULLER
GARY
GROSSMAN

A former U.S. president's plane crashes, Cairo is attacked, and the Secretary of State is kidnapped. As Russia's President Gorshkov pushes toward Soviet revival, China resists, and Dan Reilly races to unravel a global web of chaos, facing assassins, sleeper spies, and a daring rescue in the Colombian jungle.

Red Ultimatum: The Red Hotel Series, Book 4
By Ed Fuller & Gary Grossman, read by P.J. Ochlan
Published by THE RED HOTEL LLC
Available at Audible

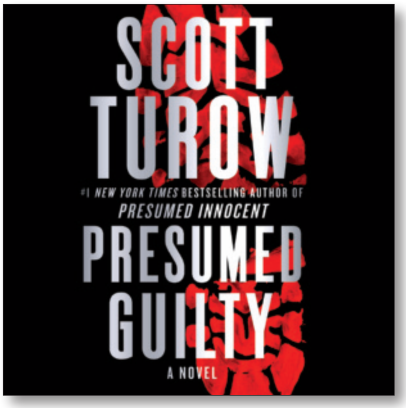
Winter Listening

»

> *"I narrated the first audio version of* Presumed Innocent *in 1988, so it was a huge privilege to pick up Rusty's story again after all these years. Mr. Turow's fans will not be disappointed!"*
> —Narrator Grover Gardner

PRESUMED GUILTY: Presumed Innocent, Book 3

Scott Turow
Read by Grover Gardner



It's been 38 years since we first met Rusty Sabich in *Presumed Innocent.* Narrator Grover Gardner, one of the best in the business, affects a smooth and evocative tone as he reminds us how Rusty was found innocent of murdering his mistress. Now he's entering the third act of his life with his engagement to the loving and insightful Bea. Gardner's tone and rhythm increase the tension as authorities accuse Bea's young adult African American son, Aaron, of killing his girlfriend. Rusty must return to court to save Aaron's life—and his last chance for love. Gardner adds a tone of mistrust as Rusty questions whether Aaron can receive a fair trial. He delightfully delivers Gen Z slang as heartbreaking revelations come to light. *R.O.*

Hachette Audio 20.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668645000 $44.99

THE RIVALS: Claudia Lin, Book 2

Jane Pek
Read by Eunice Wong

This sequel to *The Verifiers* more than lives up to the first audiobook in the series. Claudia Lin is juggling dysfunctional relationships with her mother and her siblings; an attraction to her co-worker Becks, as well as a crush on a woman she meets as part of a case; and investigating the death of a man who came to her company for help. Narrator Eunice Wong is so engaged with the story that she becomes Claudia, and her dynamic delivery is absorbing. Claudia is a fan of mystery novels and spy movies, and the plot twists and turns as the Verifiers work to get to the bottom of nefarious things that online matchmaking tech companies may be doing behind the scenes. Listeners will be effortlessly drawn in. *J.M.D.*

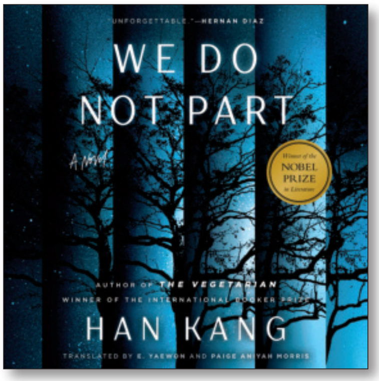
Random House Audio 12.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593947234 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593947241 $95.00

> *"Claudia and Becks are so real to me that I found myself absentmindedly googling for photos of them... um. Yeah. They're not real people, Eunice. It's just Jane Pek's whip-smart, dazzling magic."*
> —Narrator Eunice Wong

Eunice Wong photo by Hoebermann Studio

“Han has a way of interweaving story, character and history so seamlessly and beautifully that emotions stir in you in the most surprising way. Speaking her words out loud brought me on a journey in and of itself.”
—Narrator Greta Jung

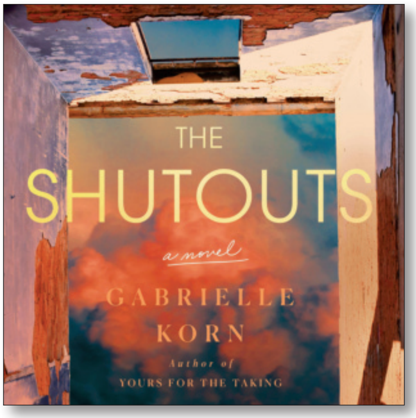
WE DO NOT PART
Han Kang, E. Yaewon,
Paige Aniyah Morris [Trans.]
Read by Greta Jung


"UNFORGETTABLE."—HERNAN DIAZ
WE DO NOT PART
A Novel
Winner of the NOBEL PRIZE in Literature
AUTHOR OF THE VEGETARIAN
WINNER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE
HAN KANG
TRANSLATED BY E. YAEWON AND PAIGE ANIYAH MORRIS

Greta Jung performs Nobel Prize winner Han Kang’s latest novel, a haunting story focused on the friendship of two women. Kyungha receives an urgent request from her friend, Inseon, to come see her at a hospital in Seoul. Inseon asks Kyungha to care for her bird, Ama, at her home on Jeju Island, and Kyungha arrives just as a snowstorm consumes the island. Jung’s wistful narration evokes the dreamlike prose and wintery atmosphere as Kyungha trudges through the snow, trying to reach Ama. Jung beautifully performs Kyungha’s first-person narration, embodying the protagonist’s thoughtful inner monologue. As the plot unfolds, Jung’s pacing is impeccable, and she maintains the mysterious tension of the story until its rapturous conclusion. *K.D.W.*

Random House Audio 7.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593946466 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593946473 $66.50

THE SHUTOUTS
Gabrielle Korn
Read by Gail Shalan


THE
SHUTOUTS
a novel
GABRIELLE
KORN
Author of
YOURS FOR THE TAKING

In the sequel to Korn’s *Yours for the Taking,* narrator Gail Shalan captures the desperation of two women as each works to survive in a world changed by politics and climate. Listeners learn why Kelly deserted her daughter, Orchid, seven years earlier and is making the dangerous trip home in 2041 to reunite with her. Woven into this story is Orchid’s quest in 2078 to find her estranged lover, Ada. Shalan’s compelling pacing works well with the range of emotions and nuances she provides for the characters and storylines—including a child-abusing cult leader, repressed lovers, and the search for a stolen child. Shalan’s intense portrayal of the regret, fear, and frustration felt by Kelly and Orchid is remarkable. *S.D.B.*

Macmillan Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250370976 $26.99

“Being a small part of telling this story, getting to live in Gabrielle’s world, see through the eyes of her characters in both the 2040s and 2070s, was an empowering, sometimes terrifying, and deeply moving experience for me.”
—Narrator Gail Shalan

Greta Jung by Caitlin Fisher, Gail Shalan photo by M. Kazikhanov

THERE ARE RIVERS IN THE SKY

Elif Shafak
Read by Olivia Vinall, Elif Shafak

Olivia Vinall's slight English accent and careful diction allow the listener to enjoy the lyrical language in the overlapping stories of Arthur, a young man in Victorian London; Narin, a Yezidi girl in Turkey in 2014; and Zaleekhah, a woman in London in 2018. Vinall's pleasant narration starts with a raindrop that falls beside the River Tigris in olden times, which will wind the lives of these three together, much like the molecules in that very drop. Author Shafak masterfully uses water to illustrate the connections between cultures and the passage of time. Narrating the author's note, she gives listeners information about the books, research, and news stories that inspired and shaped this remarkable novel. *E.J.F.*

Random House Audio 16.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593914519 $25.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593914526 $95.00

BROOKLYN: Eilis Lacey, Book 1

Colm Tóibín
Read by Saoirse Ronan

Colm Tóibín's appealing 2009 novel receives an exemplary performance from Saoirse Ronan. Set in Ireland and Brooklyn in the 1950s, the story unfolds with Ronan's lilting voice and lush pronunciations allowing both Ireland and Brooklyn to become vivid locales. Ronan's sensitive delivery highlights Eilis Lacey's emotional connection to her tiny Irish village and to her mother and sister. After leaving for Brooklyn and a better life, Eilis deals with homesickness and the stresses faced by newcomers anywhere. She also finds friendship, love, and hope. Ronan's familiarity with the characters—she played Eilis in the film version—serves the audiobook well. She creates a clear-eyed, if naïve, young woman's coming of age in a postwar world. Ronan's authentic performance makes this first-rate listening. *S.J.H.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668133224 $25.99

APARTMENT WOMEN

Gu Byeong-mo, Chi-Young Kim [Trans.]
Read by Nancy Wu

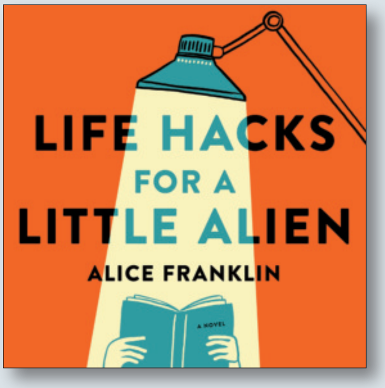
INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER
APARTMENT WOMEN
Gu Byeong-mo
Translated by Chi-Young Kim
A NOVEL

Nancy Wu's inviting narration brings listeners into the world of the first four families who move into a 12-unit government housing complex outside of Seoul, South Korea. The story shifts among the perspectives of the four mothers, with primary focus on the newest resident, Yogin, and her neighbor, Hyonae. Wu portrays Yogin's efficient persona and contemplative nature as she struggles to balance the demands of her job as a pharmacy assistant and her new building's communal childcare duties. Wu wonderfully conveys the often-exasperated tone of Hyonae, a freelance illustrator who works from home, who has similar conflicts. The other mothers, who include a controlling supermom, are vibrantly presented in snapshots throughout the story. This powerful depiction of marriage, motherhood, and societal expectations packs a wallop. *M.J.*

Harlequin Audio 4.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781488231667 $27.99

LIFE HACKS FOR A LITTLE ALIEN

Alice Franklin
Read by Sally Phillips



Sally Phillips's heartfelt performance of this novel has perfect pacing and inflection. From Little Alien's first attempt at language, listeners sense something extraordinary about her. The story's narrator, an analytical linguist, breaks down Little Alien's sentences with empathy, while Phillips's detached tone and well-timed pauses emphasize the complexities of English and the narrator's snarky undertones. Music and reading recommendations at the end of each scene enhance the novel's intrigue. As Little Alien matures, she navigates friendships, family dynamics, and school, all of which reveal her struggles with language. Phillips's mastery of cadence deepens the emotional connection to Little Alien, making her journey relatable and poignant. This performance brings the story's layers to life beautifully. *S.K.G.*

Hachette Audio 7.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668645345 $24.99

This performance brings the story's layers to life beautifully.

THE CITY AND ITS UNCERTAIN WALLS

Haruki Murakami, Philip Gabriel [Trans.]
Read by Brian Nishii

This audiobook defies easy labels, and narrator Brian Nishii is well suited to this type of material. His soft voice assumes an earnest, intense air as he follows the unnamed narrator through an alternate world. The plot is ethereal and fantastical, and the dreamy tone Nishii adopts seems appropriate as the narrator's thoughts meander. Lost love, exiled shadows, dream libraries, and coconut trees—Nishii's gentle, often hesitant, voice strolls among images both realistic and magical. For some, this lengthy performance may be too soft focused and slow. Nishii does a fine job, and it's up to the listener to decide whether the story offers enough in return. For Murakami devotees, this should be an exceptional listening experience, with plenty of sonic space to embrace the meditative. *L.B.F.*

Random House Audio 17.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593947555 $27.50

HELD

Anne Michaels
Read by Anne Michaels

Celebrated Canadian poet and novelist Anne Michaels has written an exquisite novel (shortlisted for the Booker Prize) that looks at love, loss, and human connection. Michaels's intimate delivery and empathetic tone serve her bittersweet and elegiac text well. Starting in 1917 with a battlefield explosion, her exploration of characters during troubled times spans a century and ends in the near future. This is a nonlinear philosophical story told in the elegant voice of a poet. The first sentence sets the stage; "We know life is finite; why should we believe death lasts forever?" This extraordinary novel plumbs the heart through vignettes of a photographer, a doctor, and a journalist in troubled places. It is a mesmerizing listen. *A.D.M.*

Random House Audio 4.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593825266 $15.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593825273 $57.00

SISTER SNAKE

Amanda Lee Koe
Read by Zoë Chao

Narrator Zoë Chao takes listeners on a darkly humorous, violent fantasy ride. This fast-paced contemporary reimagining of Chinese mythology follows immortal sisters Su and Emerald, who were originally born as snakes. After a thousand years, they have drifted apart, with Su living a reserved married life in Singapore and Emerald living a wild life in New York City. Chao keeps listeners engaged with her wry delivery of satirical writing, including humorous chapter titles and characterizations of the sisters' starkly different personalities. Chao deftly handles the social commentary on race and gender while keeping listeners engaged as the sisters are confronted with pressure to conform. This unique blend of folklore and current events entertains on multiple levels. *V.T.M.*

Harper Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063355095 $26.99

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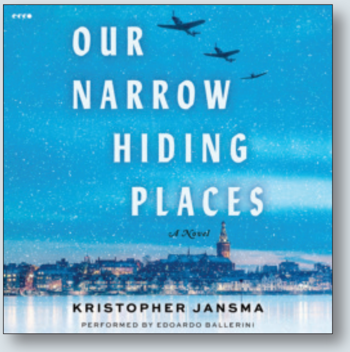
Fiction Reviews

OUR NARROW HIDING PLACES

Kristopher Jansma
Read by Edoardo Ballerini



Edoardo Ballerini's spellbinding performance of this intergenerational tale of love and survival lingers in the mind long after one is done listening. Based on memories of the author's Dutch grandmother, the novel incorporates two stories—the child Mieke, who is trying to survive Holland's "Hunger Winter" of 1944, and Mieke's adult grandson, Will, who visits his now elderly grandmother in her American home. Ballerini transcends the different eras, locations, and storytellers with an almost poetic narrative voice that allures and captivates. In scene-setting contrast, the characters of 1944, from Amsterdam's hungry children to exhausted adults to urgent Nazi occupiers, receive vivid and distinct Dutch-influenced interpretations. In America, grandson Will is a believable everyman. And the eels of Holland's waterways, who watch and comment, are ironic and wise. *A.C.S.*

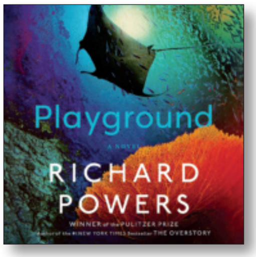
Harper Audio 8.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063352926 $27.99

Ballerini's spellbinding performance lingers in the mind.

PLAYGROUND

Richard Powers
Read by Edoardo Ballerini, Robin Siegerman, Eunice Wong, Pun Bandhu, Krys Janae, Kevin R. Free

"The fate of continents is written in water," this audiobook professes, and the vital role of the ocean is at the heart of this expansive listening experience. Here, especially at the start, it is wise to let the narrators' words flow forth, immersing the listener in four central characters and the minute details that comprise their respective worlds. Sections lack titles or labels, so the distinct voice of each narrator is key to distinguishing which story is which. Initially, the listening experience is intimidating, but once each voice is established, and whose part of the tale is being told, the plot clarifies, too. All six narrators' performances are equally deft; in fact, there is a consistency in pace and tone that makes this complex story accessible. *L.B.F.*



Spotify Audiobooks 13.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798882333125 $25.99

DOGS AND MONSTERS: Stories

Mark Haddon
Read by Christina Cole, Rachel Bavidge, Robert Bathurst, Steve John Shepherd

This thought-provoking audiobook is made up of short stories that reimagine Greek myths, as well as dystopian stories. All celebrate the enduring power of storytelling. An ensemble of narrators gives life to eight stories that tackle themes of family, brutality, humanity, love, identity, and mortality. Particularly compelling are "The Mother's Story," a retelling of the story of the Minotaur in the labyrinth; "My Old School," a contemporary look at the impact of bullying and its aftermath; and "The Wilderness," a dystopian look at genetic engineering. Listeners will find themselves transported by each offering, and the narration of each selection matches the emotion, pacing, and tension of the storyline. Listeners will think about this collection long after they finish. *K.S.M.*

Random House Audio 9 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593914823 $20.00

Narrator Kristin Atherton

By Aurelia C. Scott

Kristin Atherton's performance of *The Voyage Home* by Booker Prize novelist Pat Barker has earned her an audio-series triple crown. The actor who narrated all three novels in the Women of Troy trilogy received an Earphones Award for each one. "I'm so grateful," says Atherton. "Pat Barker is an exquisite writer. Getting to record these books felt like all my Christmases had come early."

The victimized women of Troy are the stars of this feminist retelling of Homer's *Iliad*. "Obviously, horrific things happen," says Atherton, "but these women are not defeated. They have warrior spirits. To be able to give them voice was such a gift."

Although the books are set in the ancient Mediterranean, Atherton, who is from Yorkshire, used British regional accents throughout. "Barker employs lots of English patois. It feels earthy and real. So that was my model. I used received pronunciation, what you might call proper English, for the rulers and the winners. And I gravitated to regional accents for other characters. In the first book, for example, I gave Ritsa, the healer, a strong Northern accent. It was a thrill that she ends up being the narrator of the final book."

When she's not narrating audiobooks, Atherton appears on stage, screen, and in video games. Right now, she's a lead character in the hit video game Metafore: ReFantasio. She says, "Funnily, it's one of my husband's favorites. I'll be prepping for an audiobook or studying my lines for a play, and from the living room I'll hear myself shouting that I've successfully killed a monster. It's very odd," she laughs.

A longtime member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Atherton is currently starring (as Angela Merkel) in the play *Kyoto*, about the 1997 COP climate summit. Co-produced by the RSC and the charity Good Chance, the play was workshopped throughout rehearsals. "The writers were in the room with us," says Atherton. "It was wonderful. For me, writers are the greatest artists. They create universes out of nothing."

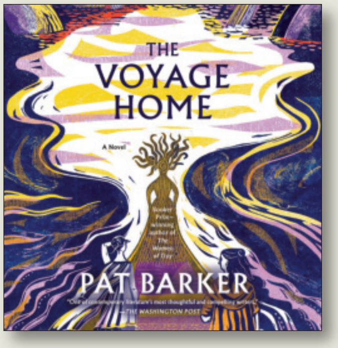
That brings her back to Barker, whom the actress lauds for not hiding behind flowery prose. "Her writing is so sparse and clear. I just gave it space and breath, and a little tenderness."

Working in a broadcast-quality home studio, sometimes with a cat sleeping under her desk, Atherton plays everything from little girls to grizzled male policemen. "Audiobooks are the purest form of storytelling. And narrating may be the purest form of acting," she says. "When I was little, I believed that my dad was the whole cast of the Winnie-the-Pooh books. In the booth, I summon that lovely primal feeling. Together, the listener and I suspend all our disbelief, and I'm everyone in this universe. That's such a gift to an actress."

Photo by Yellowbelly Photography

THE VOYAGE HOME

Pat Barker
Read by Kristin Atherton



Kristin Atherton delivers a powerhouse performance of the final volume in Booker Prize novelist Pat Barker's trilogy reimagining the Trojan War from a female perspective. This book is told mostly by Ritsa, a Trojan healer who is enslaved to Cassandra, who is herself the slave-concubine of King Agamemnon. The war is over, the seas perilous, egos fragile, prophesies unkind, and in Mycenae Clytemnestra plots revenge. Atherton, who won Earphones Awards for the previous books, again demonstrates exquisite timing that reinforces the drama. She also creates memorable, often haunting, character portraits using a range of British regional accents that illuminate background and personality. Cassandra's imperious upper-crust tones, the hardy resolve of Ritsa's northern English rhythms, the sweetness of her lover's Welsh—I will miss hearing them all. *A.C.S.*

Random House Audio 9.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593947395 $20.00

A powerhouse performance.

WELCOME TO GLORIOUS TUGA

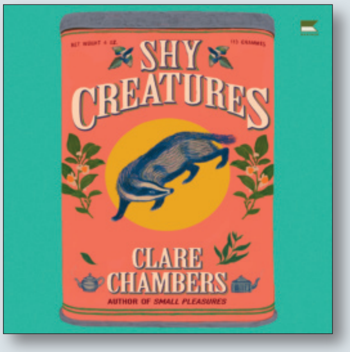
Francesca Segal
Read by Kristin Atherton

Narrator Kristin Atherton brings us to the tiny South Atlantic island of Tuga de Oro, known for being the most remote British colony in the world. London vet Charlotte Walker accepts a fellowship to study the endangered gold coin tortoises there, and perhaps find out more about herself. The caliber of acting Atherton displays is truly laudable. She goes beyond assigning memorable voices to characters by growling grumpy Pastor Garrick's greeting, filling Levi's voice with raw longing as Charlotte avoids kissing him, sounding breathy and tired as Joan's health deteriorates, and adding sobbed pauses as Charlotte spills her heart. These hundreds of little choices show mastery of craft and thoughtful understanding of each individual character, making listeners care deeply for all of them. *S.S.*

Harper Audio 11.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063360488 $26.99

SHY CREATURES

Clare Chambers
Read by Lucy Scott



Lucy Scott masterfully delivers this intense account based on a true story. In Croydon, England, in 1964, while answering a domestic disturbance call, police discover an elderly woman in distress and her 37-year-old nephew, unkempt, nearly naked, fearful, and mute. William Tapping hasn't been out of the house in decades. Helen Hansford, an art therapist at Westbury Park Psychiatric Hospital, where William is taken, discovers he is both sane and a talented artist. Scott's performance shines as secrets are slowly revealed. She delivers alternating chapters of past and present, sounding both caring and efficient as Helen; a little smarmy as her married lover, Gil; and completely authentic as the aunts. Clare Chambers's well-crafted prose and Scott's outstanding performance make this beautifully told story ring with truth. *S.J.H.*

Harper Audio 11.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063258259 $27.99

Lucy Scott masterfully delivers this intense account.

BY ANY OTHER NAME

Jodi Picoult
Read by Billie Fulford-Brown, Laura Benanti, Jodi Picoult, Jayne Entwistle, Andrew Fallaize, Joe Jameson, John Lee, et al.

Billie Fulford-Brown and Laura Benanti narrate alternating chapters in this dual-timeline novel about two playwrights: one history's most famous writer, the other a contemporary unknown. In 1581, Emilia Bassano is the actual author of the great plays now attributed to the Stratford glove-maker's son, William Shakespeare. In the present, Melina Green is a playwright who is having difficulty getting her work produced. The frustrated Melina is portrayed by Benanti in a strident voice that reflects her anger. Benanti's performance contrasts with Fulford-Brown's soft-spoken, melodic portrayal of Emilia. Rehearsal skits echoing Emilia's life, performed by talented voice actors, are interspersed between the two timelines. In this production listeners are treated to a contemporary play and multiple selections from Shakespeare's plays and poems. *M.B.K.*

Random House Audio 18.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593948255 $27.50 (also CD)
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593948064 $95.00

PRIVATE RITES

Julia Armfield
Read by Hannah van der Westhuysen

Hannah van der Westhuysen gives a quiet, melancholic performance of this contemplative, grief-filled reimagining of *King Lear*. Set in a vague future of half-drowned cities and constant rain, the story revolves around three queer sisters after the death of their famous father, an architect. Estranged from him and each other, the three women navigate their romantic relationships, fears for the future, and complicated feelings about family. Van der Westhuysen captures the meandering, watery quality of the novel with their soft, almost musical narration. It can be hard to distinguish between the voices they give the three sisters at times, but this doesn't take away from the audiobook's beguiling spell. A sad and beautiful listen; Armfield fans will not be disappointed. *L.S.*

PRIVATE RITES
a novel
JULIA ARMFIELD
Author of OUR WIVES UNDER THE SEA

Macmillan Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250354099 $19.99
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250410788 $74.99

RENTAL HOUSE

Weike Wang
Read by Jen Zhao

Jen Zhao delivers an insightful performance of this novel, which is structured around several family vacations. College sweethearts Keru and Nate have never fit in with their families and have made their own family with their sheepdog, Mantou. Cultural differences between Keru's cautious immigrant parents and Nate's boisterous American parents have created an additional fissure, so the families have taken up vacationing separately. When Keru and Nate meet a European family on vacation, they must reevaluate their feelings about their families and their marriage. Zhao's even-paced voice provides empathy and unexpected humor. Using Romanian, Chinese American, and Southern accents, Zhao breathes life into the characters. This contemplative novel is a quick, thought-provoking listen. *C.R.*

Penguin Audio 5.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593942673 $17.50

Cats & Magic: Listening to Japanese Audiobooks in Translation

By Aurelia C. Scott

▶ Cats first arrived in Japan in the sixth century, imported from China by Buddhist monks to protect sacred scrolls from rodents. Soon the industrious creatures came to symbolize luck and prosperity and were often credited with supernatural abilities. Fast-forward to the 21st century, and as you'll hear in these audiobooks, the supernatural remains an ever-present possibility in Japan, and cats and the written word are still loved and honored. They have a rare magic that can radically transform lives, bringing comfort, romance, and self-understanding to anyone willing to listen.

Kevin Shen's sympathetic narration highlights the mix of wisdom and eccentricity in *The Cat Who Saved Books* by Sosuke Natsukawa and translated by Louise Heal Kawai. After the death of his grandfather, a withdrawn Japanese schoolboy takes over his bookshop. Enter a talking tabby who enlists the boy in a series of book-rescue quests. It's an adventuresome, witty story that appeals to adults of all ages, and Shen's skill with characterization, including the clubby Englishman of a cat, adds insight and humor.

Mai Mochizuki's *The Full Moon Coffee Shop*, translated by Jesse Kirkwood and ably performed by Sadao Ueda, Tomoko Komura, and Yuriri Naka, amps up the fantastical with a cast of cats who run the Full Moon Coffee Shop, a magical place that appears where and when it's required. Inside, felines offer people common-sense wisdom, romantic counsel, and astrological explanations for life's conundrums. Lonely office workers, out of work actresses, and isolated creative types are all helped, along with the listener, by the cats' mix of coffee and advice.

> *As you'll hear in these audiobooks, the supernatural remains an ever-present possibility in Japan, and cats and the written word are loved and honored.*

The felines in Syou Ishida's touching *We'll Prescribe You a Cat* appear realistic, yet they still bring about mysterious changes in people's lives. Translated by E. Madison Shimoda and delightfully read by Naruto Komatsu and Natsumi Kuroda, the five whimsical stories introduce us to people who are unexpectedly prescribed a cat by a quirky doctor in a clinic that occasionally vanishes. Among others, we meet a disheartened accountant who finds new purpose when his cat lands him a laboring job, and a fretful schoolgirl and her censorious mother, whose furry companion shows them harmony. These, and the rest of the stories, are worth savoring.

Such is the importance of cats in Japanese culture that, while they don't star in these next couple of audiobooks, they are pictured on all the covers. And magic? Oh, that does star.

Hanako Footman's enticing performance of *The Kamogawa Food Detectives* by Hisashi Kashiwai and translated by Jesse Kirkwood highlights its emotional resonance. The enchantment of food and memory combine with mystery in a small restaurant in an out-of-the-way corner of Kyoto. There, a father and daughter help their customers experience meals from their pasts—some treasured, some traumatic—that reconnect them to their memories. Footman's reading of the dishes will make you hungry, and perhaps nostalgic for the tastes in your own past.

Let me end as I began, with a fine performance from Kevin Shen, who earned an Earphones Award for his moving narration of *Tales from the Café* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. It's the second in a series, translated by Geoffrey Trousselot, that takes us to Cafe Funiculi Funicula in Tokyo, where visitors travel briefly back in time in order to move forward in their lives. Shen offers sensitive portrayals of people who want to improve bits of their past. Listening to his portrait of a son who had missed his mother's funeral or a man wanting to see his long-ago best friend brings us close to our own regrets and hopes. The fifth in the series, *Before We Forget Kindness*, again narrated by Kevin Shen, includes the stories of a woman who couldn't give Valentine's Day chocolates to her loved one and a boy who wants to show his smile to his divorced parents. We all have past moments we wish we could do over, and Kawaguchi's audiobooks speak to that need. ■

More Listening

BEFORE WE FORGET KINDNESS

Toshikazu Kawaguchi,
Geoffrey Trousselot [Trans.],
read by Kevin Shen

Harlequin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

TALES FROM THE CAFÉ

Toshikazu Kawaguchi,
Geoffrey Trousselot [Trans.],
read by Kevin Shen

Harlequin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

THE CAT WHO SAVED BOOKS

Sosuke Natsukawa,
Louise Heal Kawai [Trans.],
read by Kevin Shen

Harper Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

DAYS AT THE MORISAKI BOOKSHOP

Satoshi Yagisawa, Eric Ozawa [Trans.],
read by Catherine Ho

Harper Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

THE EASY LIFE IN KAMUSARI

Shion Miura,
Juliet Winters Carpenter [Trans.],
read by Brian Nishii

Brilliance Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, MP3, DD

THE FULL MOON COFFEE SHOP

Mai Mochizuki, Jesse Kirkwood [Trans.],
read by Sadao Ueda, Tomoko Komura,
Yuriri Naka

Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

THE GUEST CAT

Takashi Hiraide, Eric Selland [Trans.],
read by David Shih

Tantor Media   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, MP3, DD

IF CATS DISAPPEARED FROM THE WORLD

Genki Kawamura, Eric Selland [Trans.],
read by Brian Nishii

Macmillan Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

THE KAMOGAWA FOOD DETECTIVES

Hisashi Kashiwai, Jesse Kirkwood [Trans.],
read by Hanako Footman

Penguin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

THE RESTAURANT OF LOST RECIPES: Kamogawa Food Detectives, Book 2

Hisashi Kashiwai, Jesse Kirkwood [Trans.],
read by Hanako Footman

Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

THE LANTERN OF LOST MEMORIES

Sanaka Hiiragi, Jesse Kirkwood [Trans.],
read by Hanako Footman

Hachette Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

TEMPLE ALLEY SUMMER

Sachiko Kashiwaba,
Avery Fischer Udagawa [Trans.],
read by Traci Kato-Kiriyama

Yonder   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

THE TRAVELLING CAT CHRONICLES

Hiro Arikawa, Philip Gabriel [Trans.],
read by George Blagden

Penguin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

WE'LL PRESCRIBE YOU A CAT

Syou Ishida, E. Madison Shimoda [Trans.],
read by Naruto Komatsu,
Natsumi Kuroda

Penguin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IS IN THE LIBRARY

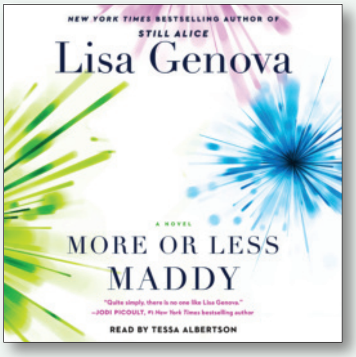
Michiko Aoyama, Alison Watts [Trans.],
read by Hanako Footman,
Susan Momoko Hingley, Kenichiro Thomson,
Winson Ting, Shiro Kawai

Harlequin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

Author Lisa Genova

MORE OR LESS MADDY

Lisa Genova
Read by Tessa Albertson


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
STILL ALICE
Lisa Genova
A NOVEL
MORE OR LESS
MADDY
READ BY TESSA ALBERTSON

Narrator Tessa Albertson captures the turmoil experienced by Maddy, a college student who is grappling with a recent diagnosis of bipolar disorder. Albertson's youthful timbre and expressive intonation perfectly convey Maddy's myriad symptoms, which include obsessional thinking and self-harm by cutting. Albertson's varied pacing helps listeners sense Maddy's intense discomfort and confusion. Secondary characters, including Maddy's concerned mother and sister, as well as her sympathetic friends, Sophia and Simone, are presented with nuance and depth. While some listeners may find a subplot involving Maddy's foray into stand-up comedy distracting, the important topic of bipolar disorder is handled with sensitivity and clarity by the dynamic pairing of neuroscientist Genova's perceptive writing and Albertson's thoughtful performance. *M.J.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 9.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781797188737 $25.99

The important topic of bipolar disorder is handled with sensitivity and clarity.

EVERY NOTE PLAYED
INSIDE the O'BRIENS
LISA GENOVA
STILL ALICE
LISA GENOVA
love anthony
READ BY DEBRA MESSING

More Listening

EVERY NOTE PLAYED

Lisa Genova, read by Dennis Boutsikaris, Dagmara Dominczyk

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

INSIDE THE O'BRIENS

Lisa Genova, read by Skipp Sudduth

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

LEFT NEGLECTED

Lisa Genova, read by Sarah Paulson

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

LOVE ANTHONY

Lisa Genova, read by Debra Messing

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

STILL ALICE

Lisa Genova, read by Lisa Genova

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD

Photo by Greg Mentzer

IN A LEAGUE OF HER OWN

Kaia Alderson
Read by Shayna Small

Narrators are expected to distinguish between men and women—and Shayna Small does it exceptionally well. Historical fiction comes alive with this account of the life of Effa Manley, who became a Negro League team owner with her husband Abe from 1935 to 1948. Effa faced racial stereotypes, as well misogyny from entering a male domain. The audiobook is entertaining from start to finish. Small takes care with every character's words, especially Effa's clear, direct voice and her older husband's usually patient tone. Each of Effa's paramours has his own personality, and a female friend has a slight twang. This fascinating story and narration conjure people and settings from another era. *M.B.*

Harper Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063228412 $27.99

THE WOMEN BEHIND THE DOOR: Paula Spencer, Book 3

Roddy Doyle
Read by Ger Ryan

What a treat it is to hear celebrated Irish actor Ger Ryan narrate Roddy Doyle's third Paula Spencer novel in her finest Dublin working-class brogue. It's 2020, the height of the Covid pandemic, and Paula finds herself locked down in her house with her oldest daughter, Nicola. They have a few things to talk about. Paula has survived an abusive husband and her own alcoholism, but she might not be ready for the secrets she and her daughter will share. Ryan is at her best balancing Doyle's rich dialogue, keen observations, and sharp humor with a rising pace and intensity that lead to startling revelations. Doyle has produced yet another singularly Irish story, which, of course, makes it universal. *B.P.*

Random House Audio 8.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593912348 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593912355 $76.00

THE WILDES: A Novel in Five Acts

Louis Bayard
Read by Elisabeth Rodgers, Damian Lynch, P.J. Ochlan, Louis Bayard

THE WILDES
A NOVEL IN FIVE ACTS
LOUIS BAYARD
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE PALE BLUE EYE AND JACKIE & ME

Impressive performances from a stellar cast transform this "Novel in Five Acts" into an absorbing listening experience. Focusing less on Oscar Wilde's affairs and gross indecency trial, Bayard's look behind the scenes probes their damaging psychological effects on Wilde's wife and young sons. Elisabeth Rodgers is simply amazing as Oscar's wife, Constance, suddenly realizes what's been going on for years. Rodgers underplays her pain, allowing her strength to shine. Damian Lynch as son Cyril is superb as a soldier who is living through the horrors of WWI trench warfare. P.J. Ochlan is sensitive, portraying son Vyvyan as he finally breaks down in his search for answers, while author Bayard narrates various roles with controlled assurance. Perfect for audio, this is historical fiction at its best. *S.J.H.*

Hachette Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668643365 $27.99

Perfect for audio, this is historical fiction at its best.

POLOSTAN: Bomb Light, Book 1

Neal Stephenson
Read by January LaVoy

January LaVoy performs this genre-bending audiobook with expert skill. Stephenson's new audiobook, while shorter than his usual work, is the first part of a promised series. The action centers around Dawn, who as a young adult is deployed as a Russian spy, gathering intel for a large Communist movement. The story hops around the globe from Russia to Chicago to Washington, DC, with characters from Europe woven into the complicated plot. LaVoy is more than up to this task, shifting among the various accents with authenticity and clarity. Never heavy-handed, she maintains the tone of a story that's laying the foundation for a larger payoff over several volumes. Listeners will be grateful she's the narrator here. *S.P.C.*

Harper Audio 11.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063397447 $27.99

The Night We Lost Him
a novel
Laura Dave
READ BY JULIA WHELAN
#1 New York Times Bestselling Author of The Last Thing He Told Me

THE NIGHT WE LOST HIM

Laura Dave
Read by Julia Whelan

Narrator Julia Whelan portrays Nora Noone with an earnest tone in this gripping family drama. Nora's father, Liam, a thrice-married hotel magnate, has become distant from his grown children. After recently changing his will, he falls from a slippery cliff at a California seaside cottage. Did he slip, or was he pushed? Whelan voices Nora's estranged stepbrother, Sam, with a brash tone as they investigate what police have determined to be an accidental death. Whelan uses her abundant vocal gifts to increase the tension when long-hidden family secrets shake Nora and Sam to their cores. Bestselling novelist Dave and narrator Whelan are an ideal pairing. *R.O.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 7.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781797189673 $24.99 (also CD)

Author Min Jin Lee

> *"I think Sandra Oh is one of the greatest actors of our time, and to have her interpretation of the novel has been an extraordinary gift."*

Author Min Jin Lee

By Leslie Fine

Min Jin Lee's 2017 novel, *Pachinko*, earned a prominent place on many bestseller lists, including *The New York Times*'s "Best Books of the 21st Century." Recently, when the prospect of a new audio edition arose, Lee considered who best to perform it. Her conclusion? She says her first thought was "the magnificent Sandra Oh."

"I think Sandra Oh is one of the greatest actors of our time, and to have her interpretation of the novel has been an extraordinary gift. She understands the story; moreover, with great emotional fluency, she has been able to dramatize every character, as well as the narrator, who is a separate character altogether. Oh is a master storyteller, and the range of feelings she brings to the work is remarkable."

An avid audiobook listener herself, Lee appreciates what the format offers listeners. "I love audiobooks, and I listen to them all the time," she says.

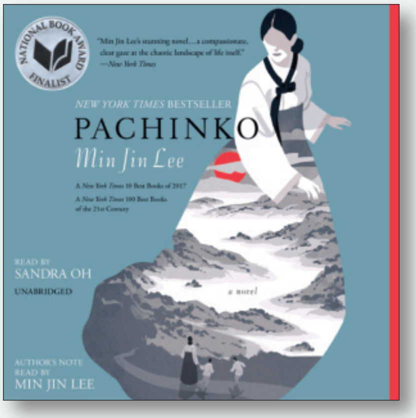
In her own work, Lee adopts an innovative approach to character development—one that uses audiobooks and has presented her with an array of listening experiences. "When I research my characters, I think of books my characters would read and reread, and audiobooks allow me to explore authors on another level. 'Lion' is one of my favorite characters in my new manuscript novel, *American Hagwon*, and he is a tutoring center owner. Lion is always searching for ways to help his students. He sees himself as a truthful philosopher, so for his character profile research, I listened to books by Charles Duhigg, James Clear, Ryan Holiday, Rob Dial, and Gay Hendricks. My starting point was for Lion's character research, but I ended up learning so much from these authors."

Lee reflects, "I think audiobooks make me respect storytelling more because I see how the form lends itself to another form of intellectual and emotional engage-

Min Jin Lee photo by Art Streiber, Sandra Oh photo by Jerry Maybrook

PACHINKO

Min Jin Lee
Read by Sandra Oh,
Min Jin Lee [Note]


NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
PACHINKO
Min Jin Lee
READ BY SANDRA OH
UNABRIDGED
a novel
AUTHOR'S NOTE READ BY MIN JIN LEE

When executed as beautifully as this one, multigenerational novels are all-consuming in the best way. Sandra Oh's performance of this audiobook makes the experience even more immersive. When young Sunja is saved from ruin and moves from Korea to Japan, a family tale begins and proceeds through four generations in the early 20th century. Oh is an outstanding narrator. Her pace is brisk yet easy to follow, and her crisp enunciation and gentle tone are a pleasure to hear. She has a magical way with dialogue, shifting voices for all manner of characters and doing so in a subtle way that avoids caricature or awkwardness. Those small narrative choices make a significant difference to the listener. *Pachinko* is a visit to another place and time, and Oh is an exceptional guide. *L.B.F.*

Hachette Audio 17.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668648315 $38.99

Sandra Oh is an exceptional guide.

More Listening

THE BEST GIRLS

Min Jin Lee, read by Greta Jung

Brilliance Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.:

FREE FOOD FOR MILLIONAIRES

Min Jin Lee, read by Jennifer Sun Bell

Hachette Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.:

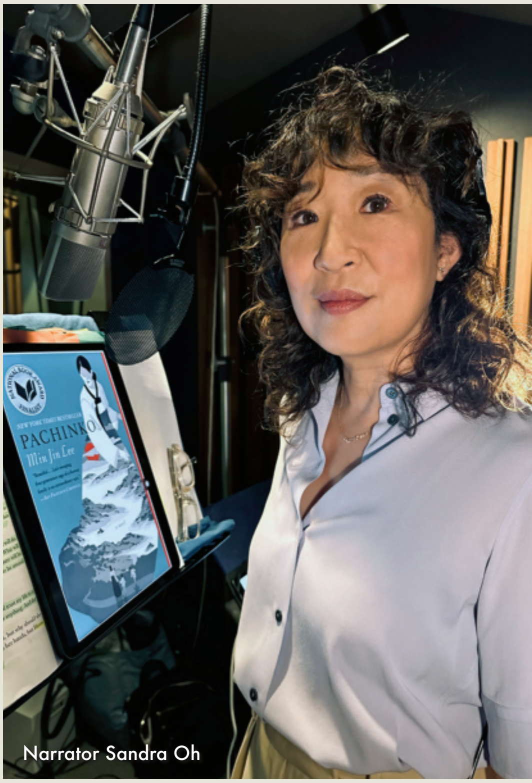
AMAZON ORIGINAL STORIES
THE BEST GIRLS
MIN JIN LEE
MIN JIN LEE
FREE FOOD for MILLIONAIRES

ment. Listening to an audiobook is distinct from a sight reading of a book; neither is superior or inferior. They are distinct experiences, and I believe neuroscientists would agree. An audiobook narrator has the capacity to reflect his/her/their subjective emotional tenor in the oral reading of a text, and having had the tremendous gift of having my works read out loud by gifted narrators, I know for a fact that the audiobook is the gift of a deeply artistic and emotional translation. If anything, I realize the elasticity and emotional range of words when I hear a gifted narrator."

Lee is an avid reader of 19th-century British and European writers. She will read and reread George Eliot, Tolstoy, Edith Wharton, Zola, Willa Cather, and Balzac. From the 20th century, favorite authors include Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, and Sinclair Lewis. Most recently, Lee finished Claire Keegan's *Foster* and describes it as "stunning." Currently, she is reading Emile Zola's *The Ladies' Paradise* and Shuang Xuetao's three novellas, *Rouge Street*.

Originally, Lee never thought she would be a writer. "I read a great deal as a child and as a young person, and I wrote and published essays in high school and college. After practicing law for two years, I quit my job in 1995 to write fiction; however, I did not publish my first book until 2007."

Part of what makes novels like *Pachinko* so absorbing is the way Lee incorporates historical research. Much like the story itself, the key to her successful research is linked to the human experience. "I pick topics and questions I have an urgent need to understand and explore. I am never bored. I enjoy the verisimilitude of realistic literary fiction. The emotions of fiction require a great deal of empathy on the part of the writer and the reader, and I can get away with the conceit of fiction if and only if my truth telling of context or the conflict feels true to the reader. I do everything I can to keep my reader in the world. I care intensely about the reader's pleasure and intelligence. Writers must respect the reader's hunger for truth and insight. I know because I am a reader first."



Narrator Sandra Oh

If you had to name one way audiobooks bring stories to life, you'd probably pick dialogue. Narrators craft individual character profiles using specific voices and accents. They lift emotions off the page and into listeners' imaginations. They make you feel like you're right there in the ballroom or the coffee shop, avidly taking in a couple's spirited ripostes.

This issue's audiobooks feature romances with sparkling banter, the true test of a narrator's range. In *The Spare*, narrators Vikas Adam and Sharmila Devar move Marcus and Sloan out of the friend zone. Adam's agile voice and Devar's textured tones make for memorable conversations. *The Break-Up Pact* features an Earphones Award-winning performance by Natalie Naudus. As June and Levi team up for different reasons, listeners will hear June's self-deprecating personality and her indignant attitude toward Levi. Naudus's voicing changes for Levi during their quippy, hyperbolic badinage are impressive.

The Earphones Award-winning *Karaoke Queen* is narrated by Manila Luzon, who, like the main character, is a Filipino American drag queen. Luzon's rich voice handles bold performances contrasted with vulnerable conversations regarding secrets and identity.

In conversations casual and significant, these skilled narrators have a lot to say. Love your listening.
–Caitlin Augusta

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audiofilemagazine.com/articles

THE BREAK-UP PACT
Emma Lord
Read by Natalie Naudus

Emma Lord
THE BREAK-UP PACT
They're about to get more than they bargained for.
A Novel

Natalie Naudus narrates this delightful romantic comedy with confidence. After adventurous escapades June comes back to her beachside hometown to manage her late sister's struggling tea shop. At the same time, Levi, recently thrust into the spotlight due to a public breakup, returns to assist Dylan, June's younger brother, with his upcoming wedding. When a chance photo of June and Levi goes viral, they seize the opportunity and concoct a plan to pretend to be in a relationship to benefit their respective situations. Naudus navigates the emotional and comedic narrative with impeccable timing, skillfully capturing the essence of each character without disrupting the seamless pacing. Her ability to convey the perfect tones through her intonation enhances the charm of the story. *S.K.G.* **2024 Best Audiobook**

Macmillan Audio 9.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250350619 $26.99

BULL MOON RISING
Ruby Dixon
Read by Felicity Munroe, Hiro Diaz

RUBY DIXON
USA TODAY BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF ICE PLANET BARBARIANS
BULL MOON RISING

Felicity Munroe and Hiro Diaz narrate this romantasy. Noble Aspeth Honori is determined to join the Royal Artifactual Guild to recover the magical treasures her father has squandered. A marriage of convenience to a minotaur gets Aspeth into the guild and the minotaur a rutting partner for an upcoming mating ritual. Munroe and Diaz cover the dual points of view of the chapters and sometimes hop into each other's chapters to narrate all-female and all-male dialogue. The shifts are jarring, at first, but ultimately add continuity and create stronger character depictions. The narrators shout and whisper without straining listeners' ears. All in all, they deliver great performances with their talent for sounding possessive, flirty, drunk, and confident. *S.S.*

Penguin Audio 17.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593913796 $27.50

HERS FOR THE WEEKEND
Helena Greer
Read by Austenne Grey, Arielle DeLisle

Hers
FOR THE
WEEKEND
HELENA GREER

Narrators Austenne Grey and Arielle DeLisle deliver a sweet and hilarious performance in this sapphic holiday rom-com. When lawyer Tara Sloane Chadwich is invited to her ex-girlfriend's destination wedding, she's willing to attend—but not without a plus-one. Holly Delaney, an adventurous waitress whom Tara has been secretly crushing on for months, is happy to oblige. Their initial fling with a side of fake dating takes a serious turn when both realize they don't want to say goodbye when the vacation is over. Grey and DeLisle bring Greer's witty banter to life, making it easy to laugh at the humor. While the two narrate separately, chapter by chapter, their chemistry shines through in the warmth and vulnerability they bestow upon Holly and Tara. *C.J.C.*

Hachette Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668642399 $27.99

KARAOKE QUEEN

Dominic Lim
Read by Manila Luzon

KARAOKE
QUEEN
DOMINIC LIM

Famous Filipino American drag queen Manila Luzon gives a heartfelt, charming narration of this delightful rom-com. Rex takes his drag queen persona, Regina, online in order to use his popularity to save a karaoke bar—all the while keeping his drag life a secret from his father. As he becomes successful, he also is faced with the need to reveal who he is to the world in order to keep the love of his life. This performance is nothing short of amazing, and the authenticity of an actual drag queen narrating this bright story makes for an especially worthwhile listen. Luzon sounds crafty, whimsical, and genuine in his narration. He makes every moment in Rex's journey beautiful and lively, including small moments with his family and friends. *G.M.*

Hachette Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668641019 $24.99

THE SPARE: Biotech Billionaires, Book 1

Ava Rani
Read by Vikas Adam, Sharmila Devar

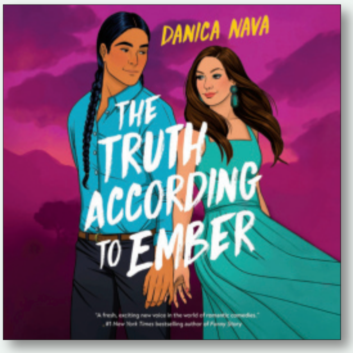
AVA RANI
THE SPARE
A BIOTECH BILLIONAIRES NOVEL

Vikas Adam and Sharmila Devar provide an intoxicating alternating narration of this first entry in a new romance series set in the worlds of biotechnology and finance. Devar's vibrant intonation and confident tone capture independent, thoughtful Sloan, an attorney who is bypassed as heir to her family's international business empire in favor of her older brother, Henry. With his velvety timbre and subtle pacing, Adam fully inhabits Henry's best friend and chief business rival, Marcus, who is successful but commitment-shy. Adam and Devar deliciously reveal Marcus and Sloan's slow recognition that their long-term friendship has morphed into love and passion. Adam and Devar's lively delivery of dialogue and intense internal monologues makes this friends-to-lovers romance a heartfelt romp. *M.J.*

Harper Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063413627 $27.99

THE TRUTH ACCORDING TO EMBER

Danica Nava
Read by Siena East



Siena East—a Choctaw writer, comedian, and actor—performs this debut romance novel from Chickasaw author Danica Nava. After sending out countless job applications with few responses, Ember Lee Cardinal decides to exaggerate her work experience on her next application. She lands the job and meets her new co-worker, Danuwoa Colson, the only other Native person at her new office and the most handsome man she's ever seen. With strong comedic timing, East's narration enhances Ember and Danuwoa's witty banter. East also captures the couple's intimate moments as they fall in love and try to hide their whirlwind romance from their co-workers. The author's delightful storytelling and East's ear for dialogue make for an all-around enjoyable listen. *K.D.W.*

Penguin Audio 9 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593906576 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593906583 $76.00

Romance Preview

ALI HAZELWOOD
Deep End
Read by Thérèse Plummer, Ben Holtzmuller

Two college athletes make an unexpected connection.

Contemporary

Penguin Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.:
Release date: February 4

TESSA BAILEY
Dream Girl Drama: Big Shots, Book 3
Read by Teddy Hamilton, Callie Dalton

A hockey player and a musician fall for each other despite their parents' incipient nuptials.

Contemporary

Harper Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.:
Release date: February 4

RACHEL REID
The Shots You Take
Read by Greg Tremblay

Two former hockey teammates get a second chance at love.

Contemporary

Harlequin Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.:
Release date: March 4

DENISE WILLIAMS
Just Our Luck
Reader TBA

A woman wins the lottery and agrees to fake-date the man who sold her the ticket.

Contemporary

Penguin Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.:
Release date: March 25

BRENDA JACKSON
Spilling the Tea
Read by Ron Butler

Are Zoey and Chance brought together by fate, or was it matchmaking Mama Laverne?

Contemporary

Harlequin Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.:
Release date: April 1

CHRISTY CARLYLE
The Duke and Lady Scandal
Read by Karen Cass

An antiques dealer and an inspector from Scotland Yard join forces to prevent the theft of the Crown Jewels.

Historical

Harper Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.:
Release date: April 1

PRECIPICE
Robert Harris
Read by Samuel West

With a crisp delivery, Samuel West narrates this compelling story of Prime Minister H.H. Asquith and his all-consuming love affair with a woman half his age just before WWI. For this novel based on recently discovered letters, West uses his British accent to paint 1914 London with a colorful and detailed palette. Asquith's focus should be on the preparation for war, but, as expressed by West in a tone of disdain, the affair considerably distracts the prime minister. West ratchets up the tension as Asquith reveals his love for Venetia Stanley—along with government secrets. A young intelligence officer investigates the leak of top-secret documents that changes the course of political history. *R.O.*

Harper Audio 12.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063248083 $27.99

MORE REVIEWS

Exclusive Web-Only
Mystery & Suspense Reviews
audiofilemagazine.com

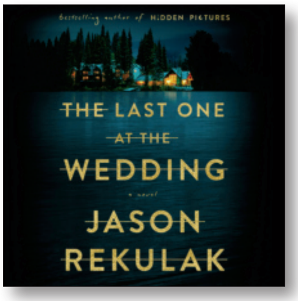
A DREAM IN THE DARK
Robert Justice
Read by JD Jackson

JD Jackson captures this well-researched novel, which is based on several real cases of wrongful imprisonment. Jackson shines in shaping the characters' emotions as Liza, an attorney, tries to help exonerate two imprisoned men through an Innocence Project program. She remains calm but frustrated at the resistance she encounters. As Eli, her friend, is quietly tormented by his own demons, Jackson knows how to shape his introspective sadness and anger. Jackson's pacing and control enhance a plot that moves the listener in and out of prisons, courts, and the streets. *M.B.*

Spotify Audiobooks 8.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD $17.93

THE LAST ONE AT THE WEDDING
Jason Rekulak
Read by John Pirhalla

John Pirhalla portrays an everyday guy named Frank whose life is turned upside down when his estranged daughter gets in touch to announce her wedding to Aidan, the son of a tech billionaire. When Frank mysteriously receives a photo of Aidan with a missing girl, he decides to investigate to ensure the safety of his daughter. Pirhalla's excellent narration highlights Frank's insecurities, which are contrasted with the confidence of Aidan and his family. Pirhalla's strong characterizations are carefully crafted. Listeners will enjoy having their perceptions change with each twist of the plot, and Pirhalla's spot-on timing will also help keep them engaged. *K.J.P.*

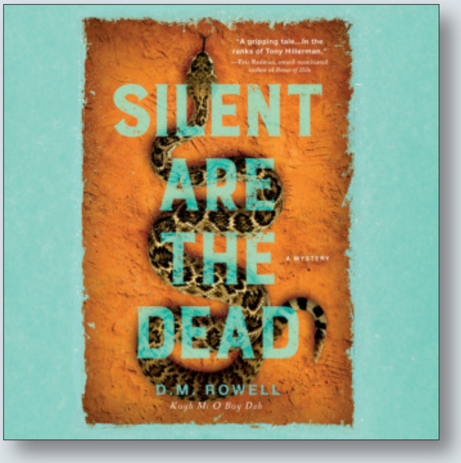


Macmillan Audio 11.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250354044 $26.99
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250399809 $74.99

> *"Rowell asks us what it means to be a modern storyteller community member. The question doesn't have an easy answer, but as someone who has grappled with it many times, it's incredible to see that journey unfold and lend my voice to it."*
> —Narrator Katie Anvil Rich

Photo by Joanna Degeneres

SILENT ARE THE DEAD:
Mud Sawpole, Book 2
D.M. Rowell
Read by Katie Anvil Rich


"A gripping tale...in the ranks of Tony Hillerman."
—Eric Redman, award-nominated author of Bones of Hilo
SILENT
ARE
THE
DEAD
A MYSTERY
D.M. ROWELL
Kogh Mi O Boy Dah

Narrator Katie Rich matches the youthful tone and spunky energy of Mud Sawpole, a Kiowa woman with a Silicon Valley business, as she returns to her home to find a missing priceless artifact, the Jefferson Peace Medal. Rich portrays complex characters and recounts Indigenous history at a fast clip, engaging listeners at both an emotional and an intellectual level. A room full of venomous snakes, the disappearance of a body, and more make it clear that someone doesn't want Mud to recover the artifact. A threat from frackers ratchets up the tension as Mud and her cousin, Denny, race to preserve local air and water quality, return the missing artifact to the Kiowa museum, and free a tribal elder who has been falsely accused of murder. *R.O.*

Dreamscape 8 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781666672947 $34.99

THE BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE 2024

S.A. Cosby, Steph Cha [Eds.]
Read by Stacy Gonzalez, Bill Andrew Quinn, John Pirhalla, Jane Oppenheimer, Nicole Lewis

This anthology presents widely varied mystery and suspense tales. They are quite well read and will hold the attention of mystery lovers and other listeners. Several narrators stand out among the many talented performers: Jane Oppenheimer's intimate and expressive narration of Abby Geni's "The Body Farm," a story of justifiable homicide, and her striking presentation of Lisa Unger's "Unknown Caller," about what can happen at a crisis center. Nicole Lewis captures the multiple voices, quick pulse, and meta quality of Alyssa Cole's "Just a Girl." Finally, John Pirhalla performs Nate Kolakowski's "Scorpions," an ironic story, with verve and subtlety. *A.D.M.*

Harper Audio 16.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063315877 $23.99

THE MAN IN BLACK:
And Other Stories

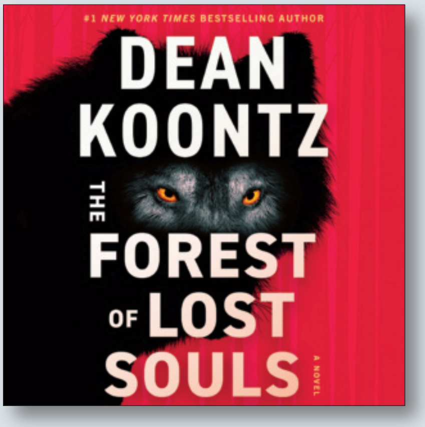
Elly Griffiths
Read by Luke Thompson, Jane McDowell, Juliette Burton, Beth Eyre, Nina Wadia, Imogen Wilde, Esther Wane

Seven talented voice actors will delight listeners who dive into this creative collection of 19 loosely connected short stories and compact mysteries revolving around archaeology, ghosts, and other supernatural entities. Many stories feature author Elly Griffiths's beloved characters: archaeologist Ruth Galloway; DCI Harry Nelson; their daughter, Kate; and the ever-mysterious druid Cathbad. Ancient spirits play a prominent role as they haunt the liminal and coastal spaces of the Norfolk coast, where Galloway lives. Listeners will be treated to a tale told by the family's cat, Flint, and another by Kate. Stories range from 10 to 30 minutes; each is performed by a different narrator. Their low-key performances let the mysterious and the otherworldly, ranging from ancient ghosts to horrifying evil, shine through each delightful tale. *M.B.K.*

Harper Audio 8 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063289352 $27.99

THE FOREST OF LOST SOULS

Dean Koontz
Read by January LaVoy



Golden Voice January LaVoy delivers an exceptional performance as Vida, who possesses a profound understanding of the mountains where she was raised. This knowledge is central to her existence. Her expertise becomes crucial when she suspects that the death of her beloved José Nochelobo was not an accident. LaVoy's precise and skillful portrayal of each character and moment adds depth to the narrative, enhancing the listening experience. The contrast between LaVoy's initial serene depiction of Vida and the men's shock at the violence of her quest for revenge is particularly striking. Overall, this audiobook combines an outstanding story with a memorable performance. *D.J.S.*

Brilliance Audio 10.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781501268458 $42.99

LaVoy delivers an exceptional performance.

NOW OR NEVER:
Stephanie Plum, Book 31

Janet Evanovich
Read by Lorelei King

Narrator Lorelei King once again works her magic in bringing to life Stephanie Plum and her crew of quirky characters. The previous audiobook in the series left fans hanging with Stephanie engaged to the two sexy men in her life. Of course, as Stephanie would say: "It's complicated." The plot relies on familiar situations that go from silly to outright ridiculous, but thanks to King's performance of Lula and Grandma, listeners can delight in the many laugh-out-loud moments. Refreshingly, Stephanie seems to finally mature a bit when it comes to her health and personal safety. No spoilers here, but hang on to the end for the long-awaited resolution to Stephanie's love triangle. Fans will eat it all up—like a doughnut with pink frosting and sprinkles. *E.Q.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 7.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781797189734 $19.99 (also CD)

THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER
PETER MAY
THE BLACK LOCH

THE BLACK LOCH:
The Lewis Trilogy, Book 4

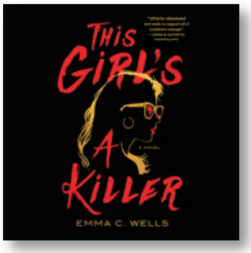
Peter May
Read by Peter Forbes

Narrator Peter Forbes, the voice behind Peter May's audiobooks, returns us to the Isle of Lewis in the Hebrides. Forbes's skill with Scottish accents, his ability to differentiate characters, and his convincing performances of both male and female voices make this a captivating listen. For fans of the Lewis Trilogy, this fourth audiobook offers an opportunity to follow Fin MacLeod, a retired detective, and his wife, Marsaili, as they return to Lewis to defend their son, Fionnlagh, who is accused of murdering his young lover. May's evocative writing, combined with Forbes's nuanced narration, enhances the atmospheric plot, weaving together complex relationships, the bond between father and son, and the disturbing realities of salmon farming. Stay through to the end for a wonderful conversation between the two Peters. *E.Q.*

riverrun 11.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD $32.71

THIS GIRL'S A KILLER
Emma C. Wells
Read by Stefanie Kay

Listeners join Cordelia Black as her carefully constructed life starts to fall apart and her secret hobby of killing predatory men is at risk of being revealed. Narrator Stefanie Kay is the perfect voice for Cordelia, whose thoughts she brings alive. She successfully reveals both Cordelia's superior attitude and her strong desire to protect her loved ones, as well as the different personalities she chooses to adopt as part of her "hobby." Kay's strong characterizations are believable for both males and females, especially during the frequent scenes of dialogue. Her perfect timing keeps the plot moving, allowing listeners to savor the story's black humor. *K.J.P.*



Dreamscape 10.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781666674361 $34.99

THE MURDERS IN GREAT DIDDLING
Katarina Bivald
Read by Helen Lloyd

Helen Lloyd provides an excellent portrayal of Berit Gardner, the author turned sleuth who is the heroine in this new Swedish mystery series. Berit is only one of a cast of eccentric characters in the rundown village of Great Diddling. After an explosion in the library of a manor house kills a local man, Berit ends up taking part in running a book-and-murder festival designed to bring tourists—and an influx of revenue—to the village. As each local's story is revealed, the festival takes on a madcap tone, resulting in fun and mayhem for all. Lloyd's voices and inflections bring life to each of the quirky characters, providing a thoroughly enjoyable listening experience. *C.F.*

Dreamscape 13.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781666668353 $25.00

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEE: Paul Whatshisname, Book 1
Josh Harper
Read by Jonathan Todd Ross

Jonathan Todd Ross's zany delivery is perfect for neurotic, wealthy sometimes-actor Paul, who lives in a luxurious Brooklyn high-rise. Listeners meet Paul on the rooftop deck as he hears about a neighbor's mysterious death from his young friend, feistily rendered Alina, a greeter for the apartment. Evocative descriptions of the secretive, entitled residents and their jealousies and volatile relationships are riveting and bluntly presented. As Paul becomes a murder suspect, he and Alina begin a clandestine search of the building whenever residents are absent. Their partnership and Paul's inner dialogue and insecurity are frequently laugh-out-loud funny. Timely comments on inequality increase Paul's gravitas and appeal. This most delightful listening experience is enhanced by Paul's driest comments. He even solicits opinions from listeners. *S.G.B.*

Propinquity Produces Books 9 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD $15.59

PODCAST EPISODE

Listen to an audio review at audiofilemagazine.com/podcast

"Every time a new Andy Mills book lands in my inbox, I know I'm in for a ride. It's an honor to voice a complex, multidimensional character who just happens to be a gay detective in 1950s San Francisco."
—Narrator Vikas Adam

ROUGH PAGES: Evander Mills, Book 3
Lev AC Rosen
Read by Vikas Adam

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF LAVENDER HOUSE
LEV AC ROSEN
ROUGH PAGES

Vikas Adam returns to narrate the third installment in Rosen's historical mystery series set in 1950s San Francisco. Evander Mills finally has a boyfriend, a safe apartment above a queer bar, and steady work as a PI. But there's always something threatening the fragile peace of the life he's built for himself, and this time it begins when the owner of a gay bookstore goes missing. Adam's narration is as pitch-perfect as ever. He voices Andy with a blend of gruff heroism and vulnerable longing that perfectly captures his complex character. He also excels at voicing secondary characters—from the talkative elderly lesbian who co-owns the bookshop to Andy's gentle but driven boyfriend, who is a bartender. A delightful romp. *L.S.*

Macmillan Audio 9.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250367266 $26.99

Photo by Sergio Garcia

HALFMOON LANE

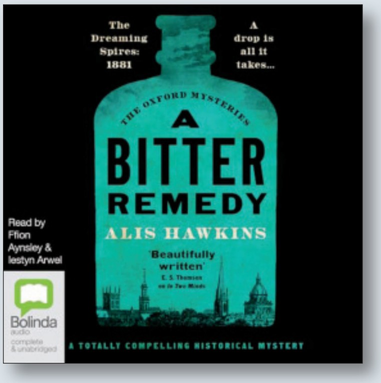
Paula Hillman
Read by Melanie Crawley

Melanie Crawley skillfully presents this unpredictable story set in an English seaside village. Listeners meet a successful businesswoman, Nina, and her easygoing employee, Holly. Their genuine friendship is filled with both good and bad moments. However, Nina's tranquility vanishes after she has an intimate weekend with Gabriel, a relative stranger, who's later found murdered. The contrasting viewpoints of Nina and Holly are so masterfully presented by Crawley that listeners will listen intently to each of their conversations. Also present is an array of interesting townsfolk, all coping with the tragedy. When Nina becomes a prime suspect, her friend investigates at great personal risk. Audio enhances the listener's enjoyment of these quirky, well-developed characters, particularly the one who emerges as an unlikely hero. *S.G.B.*

PublishDrive 9.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD $11.89

A BITTER REMEDY:
The Oxford Mysteries, Book 1

Alis Hawkins
Read by Ffion Aynsley,
Iestyn Arwel


The Dreaming Spires: 1881
A drop is all it takes...
THE OXFORD MYSTERIES
A BITTER REMEDY
ALIS HAWKINS
'Beautifully written'
Read by Ffion Aynsley & Iestyn Arwel
Bolinda audio complete & unabridged
A TOTALLY COMPELLING HISTORICAL MYSTERY

Ffion Aynsley and Iestyn Arwel portray the characters in this story of murder and deception in 1881 Oxford. Aynsley morphs into determined and clever Non Vaughan, a Welsh polymath recently admitted to Jesus College at Oxford. Aynsley's vocal performance features a melodic Welsh lilt that ebbs and flows with Non's emotions. Arwel breathes life into Basil Rice, a Jesus College fellow and tutor to first-year student Sidney Parker, who is found dead in his lodgings, his room littered with patent medicines. Puzzle-loving Non joins Basil in seeking clues to ferret out the truth behind Parker's death. Welsh sayings flow effortlessly from Aynsley, adding aural delight to a challenging mystery. *M.B.K.*

Bolinda Audio 13 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781038680235 $24.99

Welsh sayings flow effortlessly, adding aural delight to a challenging mystery.

SOCIETY OF LIES

Lauren Ling Brown
Read by Brie Carter, Chandler Gregoire,
Lauren Ling Brown

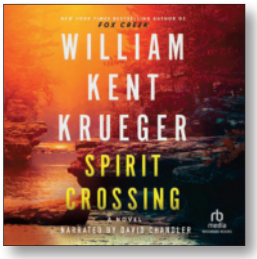
Brie Carter, Chandler Gregoire, and Lauren Ling Brown bring distinct performances to this layered mystery. The ensemble performances add depth to Maya's college reunion at Princeton, which transforms into a harrowing investigation of her sister Naomi's death. Carter's portrayal of Maya skillfully conveys her mix of grief and determination, immersing listeners in her search for answers. Gregoire adds complexity to supporting characters, capturing the tension and secrecy surrounding the Sterling Club and its elite society. Brown's narration enhances the story's darker themes, maintaining clarity as the mystery deepens. The pacing and vocal variety keep listeners engaged, building suspense as Maya uncovers buried truths about her past and Naomi's final months. Together, the narrators amplify this exploration of privilege, secrets, and sisterhood. *M.R.*

Random House Audio 11.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593909492 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593909508 $95.00

SPIRIT CROSSING:
Cork O'Connor, Book 20

William Kent Krueger
Read by David Chandler

Cork O'Connor's diverse heritage plays a pivotal role in the latest audiobook in this consistently engaging series. O'Connor, who has both Irish and Ojibwe lineage, uses his background to unravel the mysteries surrounding the disappearance of a local politician's teenage daughter and the grave of a young Ojibwe woman. David Chandler is an excellent choice as narrator. His use of subtle inflection contrasts effectively with the intensity he employs to depict the many characters who are indifferent toward the Ojibwe young woman and seek to prevent O'Connor from connecting the two cases. As the audiobook progresses toward its climax, so does Chandler's performance, culminating in a memorable narration. *D.J.S.*


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF FOX CREEK
WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER
SPIRIT CROSSING
A NOVEL
NARRATED BY DAVID CHANDLER
rb media

Recorded Books 10 hrs. Unabridged
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781705030738 $21.49
(also CD, MP3)

THE LAKE OF LOST GIRLS

Katherine Greene
Read by Helen Laser, Frankie Corzo,
Sara Young, Haley Taylor, David Bendena

Five narrators bring together multiple perspectives and two timelines to create a rich and cohesive listening experience in this one-of-a-kind thriller. Lindsey is 6 when her older sister, Jess, goes missing. Three other women are reported missing from Jess's college that year, but it's not until 24 years later when one of the bodies is found at a nearby lake that the cases are properly investigated. Frankie Corzo, as Jess, and Helen Laser, as current-day Lindsey, are standouts, each displaying an impressive emotional range. Sara Young and Haley Taylor exude confidence as true-crime podcasters. They are giddy at the prospect of entertaining others with developments in the case and have distinct voices throughout their banter. David Bendena rounds out the cast with a smaller role. *A.L.C.*

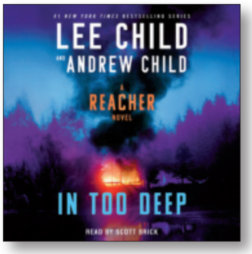
Dreamscape Media 10.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781666679311 $34.99

HAVOC
Christopher Bollen
Read by Maggi-Meg Reed

Maggi-Meg Reed shines in this psychological thriller pitting an octogenarian against an 8-year-old boy. Listeners are in for dark humor, plot twists, and increasing suspense. Set during Covid at the Royal Karnak Hotel on the banks of the Nile, the story features 81-year-old Maggie Burkhardt, a meddler who gets involved in fixing people's lives—even when she shouldn't. After her last "project" forces her to flee Switzerland, she settles in Egypt, where she is introduced to Otto. Insanity ensues. Reed does a remarkable job of transitioning between Maggie's role as narrator and her interactions with others. She also creates distinctions among a wide range of supporting characters. *K.S.M.*

Harper Audio 11 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063378926 $27.99

IN TOO DEEP: Jack Reacher, Book 29
Lee Child, Andrew Child
Read by Scott Brick



Scott Brick is the voice of ex-military cop Jack Reacher in this 29th installment in the series. Here Reacher is suffering from memory loss following a car accident that killed the driver. He awakens strapped to a table by people who think he's the driver's accomplice. He then becomes involved with four thieves, each of whom is trying to outwit and double-cross the others. Brick is all cool and confident charisma as Reacher, maintaining clear thinking while in extreme danger. The criminals supply steady pressure, but Brick's assertive pacing keeps listeners safe in Reacher's corner. Brick's female characterizations are strong and assured—these women play second fiddle to no man. This action-adventure ride is a master class in compelling narration. *L.M.G.*

Penguin Audio 10 hrs. Unabridged
Trade: DD ISBN 9780593916476 $25.00 (also CD)
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593916483 $95.00

EXPOSURE: Rita Todacheene, Book 2
Ramona Emerson
Read by Charley Flyte

Lakota/Mohawk narrator Charley Flyte returns to draw listeners into the brutal earthly and sad spiritual worlds of forensic photographer Rita Todacheene. Flyte masterfully meets the challenge of voicing Todacheene, conveying her torturous special gift to see and hear the spirits of those who have died by violence. Shifting seamlessly between Todacheene's perspective and the voice of a deranged murderer, Flyte creates an intensely creepy atmosphere, exposing listeners to the raw emotional landscape of cruel crimes. The graphic details and psychological depth will immerse listeners in Todacheene's challenging experiences. While listeners will find enough backstory to pick up on the characters, relationships, and plotlines from the first audiobook in the series, they might benefit from starting with *Shutter*. *E.Q.*

Recorded Books 9 hrs. Unabridged
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798892745338 $20.00
(also CD, MP3)

TWO GOOD MEN
S. E. Redfearn
Read by Curt Bonnem

TWO
UNABRIDGED
GOOD
MEN
S. E. REDFEARN

This fascinating and aptly named audiobook features two very different "good men," each fighting for justice in a completely different way. Narrator Curt Bonnem keeps listeners mesmerized with his pitch-perfect performance of mild-mannered scientist Dick Raynes and his counterpart, brilliant FBI Agent Steve Patterson, who is in love with Raynes's sister, Dee. After a lifetime of being bullied, Raynes uses his scientific skills to defend his family against a rapist who has vowed revenge against Dee for testifying against him. Buoyed by his success, Raynes uses his scientific prowess to identify and stop other sexual offenders, sometimes permanently. Patterson is hopelessly in love with Dee and soon figures out what her brother is doing. He understands, even agrees to a point, but can he look the other way as the body count continues? *M.S.*

Blackstone Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798212238885 $22.95 (also CD, MP3)
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798212238878 $54.95 (also CD)

Bonnem keeps listeners mesmerized with his pitch-perfect performance.

THE SUSPECT:
Karl Alberg, Book 1
L.R. Wright
Read by Peter Outerbridge, Kristin Kreuk, John Nelles

A team of talented narrators shines in this audiobook—part police procedural, part mystery, and part compelling character study. The story is set in the 1980s on the Sunshine Coast in British Columbia. Listeners know from the beginning who killed Carlyle Burke, but they don't know why. Staff Sgt. Karl Alberg, portrayed by Peter Outerbridge, is brought in to investigate. He knows who did it, but he can't prove it, and his frustration and determination are evident. Cassandra Mitchell, portrayed by Kristin Kreuk, is the town librarian with connections to everyone. George Wilcox, portrayed by John Nelles, is a quiet octogenarian with secrets and unanswered questions. The characters are well developed, and the pacing of the narration complements the investigation and the relationships presented. *K.S.M.*

Doubleday Canada 7.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780385701198 $13.46

THE HOUSE OF CROSS:
Alex Cross, Book 30

James Patterson
Read by Wayne Carr, Inger Tudor, William Christopher Stephens, Peter Giles, Zeno Robinson, Christine Lakin, Andrew Kishino

A cast of talented narrators lend their voices to the 30th installment of the Alex Cross series. Supreme Court candidates are being murdered as the president-elect plans her inauguration. Cross and his colleagues must figure out who is behind the killings and why. As he draws closer to the answer, his wife and best friend disappear, leaving him with two major cases to solve. Narrators take parts as if they are in a well-rehearsed play, complete with wheezing evil masterminds and their minions. Listeners will hear the desperation of people who are struggling to survive. Tension mounts as the clock ticks and new dangers emerge around every corner. *L.M.G.*

Hachette Audio 9.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade: DD ISBN 9781668639023 $27.99

GUILT AND GINATAAN:
A Tita Rosie's Kitchen Mystery, Book 5

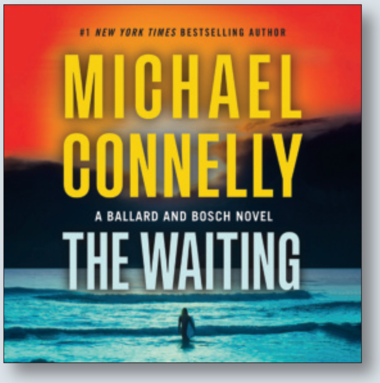
Mia P. Manansala
Read by Danice Cabanela

For those looking for a fun, at times even rollicking, cozy mystery full of delicious Filipino food and a bevy of delightful female characters, this installment of the Tita Rosie's Kitchen Mystery series, narrated by Danice Cabanela, will fit the bill. Set in the fictional Midwest town of Shady Palms, the story features Lila Macapagal, owner of the Brew-Ha Café, who is embroiled in another murder mystery. This time the murder takes place during a corn festival, and Lila must prove that her bestie, Adeena, is not the killer. Cabanela is impeccable with her accents, voices, and inflections, bringing animation and drama to the dialogue. That and the story itself are enough to forgive her sometimes-wooden delivery of narrative. Foodies, cozy mystery lovers, and people interested in cultural festivals will enjoy this audio. *C.F.*

Penguin Audio 8.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade: DD ISBN 9780593911372 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593911389 $66.50

THE WAITING: Renée Ballard and Harry Bosch, Book 6

Michael Connelly
Read by Christine Lakin, Titus Welliver, Madison Lintz


#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
MICHAEL CONNELLY
A BALLARD AND BOSCH NOVEL
THE WAITING

Three talented narrators bring to life the sixth installment of this series featuring LAPD detectives Renée Ballard, who leads the new Cold Case Unit, and Harry Bosch, retired. Christine Lakin returns to masterfully capture Ballard's on-the-job rebelliousness and struggles relating to her missing mother. Listeners also reconnect with Bosch's daughter, Maddie, now a patrol officer, whose youthful intensity is brought to life by Madison Lintz. Maddie stumbles upon potential evidence in an infamous 70-year-old cold case and eagerly volunteers to work in Ballard's unit. In a brief but satisfying appearance, Titus Welliver voices Bosch, who is summoned by Ballard to help with a personal matter that escalates into a major case. With its multiple plotlines—ranging from cold cases to a terrorist plot—this production offers nonstop entertainment. *E.Q.*

Hachette Audio 10.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668640081 $27.99

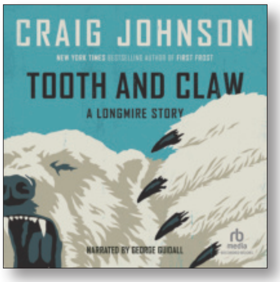
This production offers nonstop entertainment.

IDENTITY UNKNOWN:
Kay Scarpetta, Book 28

Patricia Cornwell
Read by January LaVoy

January LaVoy returns to narrate the 28th book in the Kay Scarpetta series. This one is a doozy. A shocked Scarpetta learns that her former lover, Sal Giordano, has been murdered and that she must perform his autopsy in front of several high-ranking DC officials, including her husband, Benton, an FBI profiler. LaVoy's crisp delivery of dialogue crackles throughout the production. Consistent voicings for all of the characters are commendable as Scarpetta discovers clues linking the deaths of Giordan and three other people. LaVoy's stellar ability to ratchet up suspense using pitch and pacing is riveting, especially after Scarpetta discovers villain Carrie Grethen's role in this case. *S.D.B.*

Hachette Audio 10.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668644331 $27.99


CRAIG JOHNSON
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF FIRST FROST
TOOTH AND CLAW
A LONGMIRE STORY
NARRATED BY GEORGE GUIDALL
rb media

TOOTH AND CLAW:
Walt Longmire, Book 21

Craig Johnson
Read by George Guidall

In this novella, narrator George Guidall showcases his masterful narration talents in bringing to life Walt Longmire, Henry Standing Bear, and a crew of new characters who share this intense adventure. Guidall's nuanced performance takes listeners on a life-threatening journey with Longmire and Henry as young men. Disillusioned after returning from serving in Vietnam, Longmire takes a security job for an oil company exploring in Alaska. Henry comes to visit, and they end up on a harrowing undertaking across ice-covered landscapes, battling fierce storms, a monstrous polar bear, and the darker side of humanity. Though fans may know that Walt and Henry ultimately survive, the life-or-death stakes set against the frozen tundra will keep them riveted from start to finish. *E.Q.*

Recorded Books 4.5 hrs. Unabridged
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798892741156 $24.99
(also CD, MP3)

Author Lisa Gardner & Narrator Hillary Huber

By Michele Cobb

***AudioFile*'s Michele Cobb spoke with author Lisa Gardner and narrator Hillary Huber about their partnership on Gardner's Frankie Elkin mysteries, including the most recent in the series, *Still See You Everywhere*. This is an excerpt—watch their full conversation at youtube.com/@audiofilemagazine.**

Michele Cobb: Lisa, tell us a little bit about Frankie. Who is she?

Lisa Gardner: Frankie is fun for me. Like many thriller authors, I started my career writing about FBI profilers, then I had a detective, Boston cop D.D. Warren, but Frankie is my first ever amateur sleuth. But she's actually based on things going on in the real world right now. Between the internet, the information age, we're seeing more and more people getting involved in cold cases. So Frankie's obsession, and she's not specially trained, she doesn't belong to any kind of law enforcement, but she's looking for the missing the rest of the world has forgotten. Which, very sadly, is hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. alone. And that's Frankie's obsession. She's a recovering alcoholic, and she would argue this is how she stays sober. That kind of classic, it's so much easier to solve other people's problems than your own. So she goes from town to town looking for the missing, and *Still See You Everywhere* brings her to a very interesting location to find the missing person.

Author Lisa Gardner

MC: Hillary, you have voiced Frankie from the start, so what's your take on this woman?

Hillary Huber: Frankie is up there in my very most favorite protagonists that I've ever narrated. And one of the main reasons for that is that she's damaged, and I love that about her. She's got a past, and that past haunts her, and it's always with her. And it drives her to do what she does. And I just find that a damaged protagonist is a more realistic protagonist, and it doesn't matter what the damage is, it gives you something to maybe identify with. My damage might not be the same as her damage, but she's not just some perfect supermodel prancing around the planet. She's a real person, with a past. And it gives me as a narrator something to really hang on and dig into. And she's snarky, and she's smart, and she's strong, and she puts people in their place. Which is nothing like me at all.

LG: I will say, as the author, I think Hillary has totally nailed the wiseass part of Frankie, hands down. Just throwing that out there.

MC: Lisa, what motivated you to have Frankie sit outside of being a detective? What was used in building this character?

LG: Most of my books have been inspired by real life. I read an article on a real-world person, this is what she did, there were all these women going missing on tribal lands, and no one was even looking for them. Which is very much the situation that brings Frankie to off the coast of Hawaii. The number of native Hawaiians that are disappearing and that no one is looking for is a known

Lisa Gardner photo by Philbrook Photography, Hillary Huber by Two Dudes Photo

fact. The fundamental question, in real life or in the Frankie-universe, is why? Who the hell does this kind of thing? And, like Hillary said, there's damage, but I don't know that Frankie knows, and it makes her already one of my favorite characters. She's kind of learning by doing. And that makes each book exciting for me. And the other thing I'd like to say about Frankie is, she's a great listener. That's her superpower. She interacts with people, she talks to them, she gets to know them, she gets to know the situation, and following those breadcrumbs, that's what brings you to a resolution.

MC: And I think those are the things that probably make her really interesting to play, right, Hillary?

HH: Yeah, she infiltrates whatever town or community. She has no possessions, she has a backpack, she has no home, she has a burner phone, and she just travels around and becomes one with the community first, so that she can follow those breadcrumbs.

Narrator Hillary Huber

MC: Is there anything in particular you have to do to portray Frankie vocally?

HH: Frankie is pretty much me. That's how I play Frankie. I don't put anything on her. One thing we're taught is to always start at our own truth, when we do this kind of work—so if the character realistically sounds like me, then that's what I'm going to do, because that's going to be the most real. And then other ancillary characters, I play with their voices for sure.

MC: What kind of research do you do on the narration end?

HH: I read the book, that's first, and I do language research, vocabulary research, to make sure I know how to say "atoll." And there were a lot of Hawaiian words in this book. I grew up in Hawaii, actually, my dad lived on Oahu for a long time. And then as I'm reading the book, there's a lot of marinating that happens, trying to get to know who the characters are, what's driving them, who the red herring is, who the bad guy is, just trying to see what the story arc is and how I'm going to either shine a light on the red herring or play with that a little, to not give anything away. And hopefully lead people astray a little bit, because I think that narrators have the power to do that. And I take copious notes about each character, trying to figure out what they sound like.

LG: You're telling a story where you know the ending, I think that's actually really challenging, and not something that we talk about enough or you get enough credit for. When you know the ending, it's hard not to broadcast it, and your whole job is not to broadcast it. ■

VIDEO ONLINE

Watch a video of this interview on AudioFile's YouTube channel: youtube.com/@audiofilemagazine

More Listening

BEFORE SHE DISAPPEARED: Frankie Elkin, Book 1
Lisa Gardner,
read by Hillary Huber
Brilliance Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, MP3, DD

ONE STEP TOO FAR: Frankie Elkin, Book 2
Lisa Gardner,
read by Hillary Huber
Brilliance Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, MP3, DD, PRE

STILL SEE YOU EVERYWHERE: Frankie Elkin, Book 3
Lisa Gardner,
read by Hillary Huber
Hachette Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

KISS HER GOODBYE: Frankie Elkin, Book 4
Lisa Gardner,
read by Hillary Huber
Hachette Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Release date: August 12

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
LISA GARDNER
A NOVEL
BEFORE SHE DISAPPEARED
LISA GARDNER
ONE STEP TOO FAR
A NOVEL
LISA GARDNER
STILL SEE YOU EVERYWHERE
A NOVEL

THE AGE OF INNOCENCE

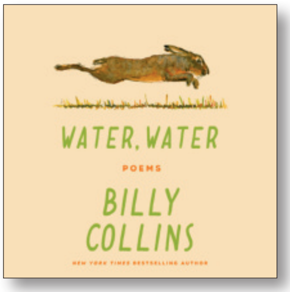
Edith Wharton
Read by Daniel Henning

Like an autocrat of a nineteenth-century drawing room, Daniel Henning captures the pedantic wit of Edith Wharton's keenly observant masterpiece about a "long vanished America," which won a 1921 Pulitzer Prize. It's the Gilded Age of the 1870s, and a young scion of one of New York's finest and most influential families is about to marry the girl of his dreams, also a member of New York's high society. Then he meets her exotic, sophisticated cousin, who just happens to be unhappily married to a Polish count. As our hero is torn between two loves, Henning nicely accentuates Wharton's light and ironic tone in describing the never-ending parties, the gossip, and society's insatiable appetite for scandal. A tour de force of American literature. *B.P.*

Spotify Audiobooks 12.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: $13.99

WATER, WATER: Poems

Billy Collins
Read by Billy Collins



Two great characteristics of Billy Collins's poems are their surface simplicity and their intriguing depth. Collins reads them here as though the surface were all, letting us appreciate the language and wit but allowing us to stop and think and go as deep as we want into these meditations on poetry, age, mortality, and many other subjects. Now in his 80s, Collins spends more time looking back than forward in this collection, but there is no sense of farewell. He clearly has plans to continue writing (and reading). There is certainly no indication that he has run out of things to say, or subjects that intrigue him. The poetry and performance are equally lively, and reward careful listening. *D.M.H.*

Random House Audio 1.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217064410 $12.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217064427 $28.50

SLOUCHING TOWARDS BETHLEHEM: Essays

Joan Didion
Read by Maya Hawke

JOAN DIDION
SLOUCHING
TOWARDS
BETHLEHEM

Maya Hawke performs this classic collection superbly. She pays attention to Joan Didion's exquisite prose and captures her careful observations—such as a 5-year-old on acid in San Francisco and the evolution of her native Sacramento once aerospace engineers arrived, among other topics. Hawke gets Didion's measured pace and thoughtful tone just right as she conveys the much-admired author's idiosyncratic, elegant language. The audiobook vividly brings back the 1960s, when Didion, Tom Wolfe, and Hunter S. Thompson created "new journalism." Didion's various topics include her personal experience in the New York literary world, John Wayne, and observations of postwar Hawaii. Overall, Didion writes eloquently, and Hawke's lovely voice and professional delivery are a good fit. *A.D.M.*

Macmillan Audio 6.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250384263 $19.99

Hawke performs this classic collection superbly.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE POET: Uncollected Works of Zbigniew Herbert

Zbigniew Herbert
Read by Simon Vance

In narrating the three radio plays that open this audiobook, Simon Vance does not attempt to create voices for the many characters. Instead, he reads the tags that identify the speakers and provides each one with an emotional life. Postwar Polish writer Zbigniew Herbert's plays are mostly about philosophy anyway, so deep characterization is not so relevant. The poems here—like the plays, previously uncollected—make a good introduction to the body of work that made him famous and, for a while, an exile. They lean toward the dark side and often have a strong philosophical content, but Vance emphasizes their humanity. These are masterful performances of hard-to-find works by one of the last century's great poets. *D.M.H.*

Harper Audio 4 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063385030 $27.99

A LAST SUPPER OF QUEER APOSTLES: Selected Essays

Pedro Lemebel, Gwendolyn Harper [Trans., Ed., Intro., Notes], Idra Novey [Fore.]
Read by Vico Ortiz, Idra Novey, Gwendolyn Harper

This audiobook begins with a thoughtful foreword, written and narrated by Idra Novey, and a comprehensive introduction that provides essential historical and linguistic context, narrated by translator Gwendolyn Harper. Then, Vico Ortiz vividly narrates the selection of crónicas (short chronicles) written by Chilean queer activist and artist Pedro Lemebel. These essays are a blend of fiction, nonfiction, journalism, and imagination, blurring (and queering) the boundaries of genre. Lemebel writes about the daily lives of queer and trans Chileans who are living through both the AIDS crisis and the Pinochet dictatorship. Their prose is brash, campy, ecstatic, and unapologetic. Ortiz captures their humor, pathos, and anger in both English and Spanish. Their voice is by turns warm, affronted, sarcastic, plaintive, and poetic. A phenomenal production of a South American queer classic. *L.S.*

Penguin Audio 8 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593791882 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593791899 $66.50

CANDIDE
Voltaire
Read by Martyn Swain

There's no question that *Candide*, written in 1759, is a classic and Voltaire's masterpiece, but most people today probably don't know it. This audio version is an easy-to-swallow rendition in which narrator Martyn Swain seems to be having quite a good time telling the story. He mostly uses accents to portray the many characters, and his range of accents is impressive, including those of various British regions and classes, along with French, German, Dutch, Italian, and Portuguese. Swain doesn't work too hard to hold the story together because, frankly, it doesn't. What matters is Voltaire's biting wit and Candide's unconquerable naïveté as he pursues his beloved Cunegonde across the world. This is not a novel in the modern sense, but a rollicking fun story. *D.M.H.*

Spoken Realms 3.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798874818654 $19.95
(also CD, MP3)
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798874818647 $34.95
(also CD)

THE SECRET GARDEN
Jeanne Sakata,
Frances Hodgson Burnett
Read by Jonathan Charles,
Shannon Cochran,
Adhir Kalyan, Alma Marian,
Cerris Morgan-Moyer,
Alastair James Murden,
Ian Ogilvy, Lina Patel

L.A. THEATRE WORKS
LATW
SUSAN A. LOEWENBERG, PRODUCING DIRECTOR
FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT
THE SECRET GARDEN
Adapted by JEANNE SAKATA
Directed by JESSICA KUBZANSKY

Playwright Jeanne Sakata's newly commissioned version of this beloved classic for L.A. Theatre Works is both well produced and thoughtful. It provides backstory for Mary Lennox before turning the dour child over to Archibald Craven, her remaining relative, after an outbreak of cholera takes her family in India. Mary, voiced by Alma Marian, moves from petulance to wonder as she slowly discovers what the Yorkshire moors offer her in terms of friends, family, and the wonders in the garden. This shift is ably reflected by other narrators, as well, notably Ian Ogilvy's Ben Weatherstaff, Jonathan Charles's Colin, and Adhir Kalyan's Archibald, all of whom are won over by the garden's magic. *E.J.F.*

L.A. Theatre Works 1.5 hrs. Audio Program
Trade: DD ISBN 9781682661864 $6.95
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781682661864 $29.95

Well produced and thoughtful.

PAPER BOAT: New and Selected Poems: 1961-2023
Margaret Atwood
Read by Margaret Atwood

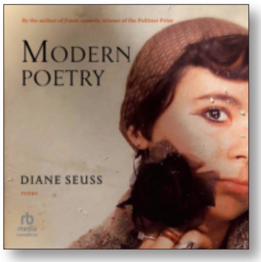
Although her novels overshadow her other works, Margaret Atwood's poetry has won the Governor General's Award—roughly equivalent to the Pulitzer. Her latest collection, which she delivers in this audio edition, includes selections from her entire career and involves subjects that range from the Canadian experience to life as an aging woman alone. Perhaps as a way of refraining from imposing interpretations on the listener, Atwood uses a truncated spectrum of volume, tone, and emotion in her narration. This does invite the listener into the poems but also leaves them sounding rather the same, which does them a disservice. They are rich in variety, imagery, and language, and it would be interesting—and useful—to learn more about what they mean to the author. *D.M.H.*

Random House Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593914649 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593914656 $95.00

A DOLL'S HOUSE
Henrik Ibsen
Read by Alison Larkin, Andrew Wincott

With a little help from state-of-the-art production techniques and veteran acting talents, narrators Alison Larkin and Andrew Wincott give voice to nine characters and create the energy, intimacy, and acoustics of live theater in their presentation of Henrik Ibsen's groundbreaking 1879 masterwork about a woman's personal and economic awakening. At first, the world seems easy and bright with wife Nora's playful banter and husband Torvald's teasing, but when an old friend arrives and an intimate secret is about to be exposed, Nora must make a fateful decision. The choice to have only two actors playing all the parts works seamlessly, and Larkin nails the emotions of a wife who is telling her husband she can no longer be treated like a toy in a doll's house. Classic theater indeed. *B.P.*

Alison Larkin Presents 2.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798875199370 $14.95
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798875199387 $24.95



MODERN POETRY: Poems
Diane Seuss
Read by Diane Seuss

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Diane Seuss reads her own work at a stately pace. Some listeners may find this hard to get used to, but it gives them the opportunity to think about the poems, rather than just experiencing them. They are a portrait of the author—who she is and how she became that person. Her love of Keats (the man and his work) is a theme, and the title poem is a survey of some of the greats of modern poetry and how she and her own poetry relate to them. Seuss's narration reveals her understanding of the emotional content of her work and how to convey that to listeners. *D.M.H.*

HighBridge Audio 2.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781696616409 $8.99

CHER: The Memoir, Part One
Cher
Read by Cher, Stephanie J. Block

Oscar-winning actor, respected singer, and self-declared icon whose comebacks and reinventions have had their own comebacks and reinventions, Cher offers the first volume of her memoir. She alternates narrating with actor and friend Stephanie J. Block—who portrayed Cher in a short-lived Broadway musical biography. Both narrators are charming, effective, and pleasing to the ear. However, some of the narrative transitions are so sudden that the shift, once realized, is disconcerting. It's all here: the years with musical partner Sonny Bono, collaborating with Phil Spector, and meaningful background on her many early creative efforts, including hit records, concerts, and television appearances. The work is intimate and revealing while sparing listeners gossipy details. *W.A.G.*

Cher
THE MEMOIR
PART ONE

Harper Audio 15.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780062863133 $38.99

A THOUSAND THREADS: A Memoir
Neneh Cherry
Read by Neneh Cherry

Swedish musician and citizen of the world Neneh Cherry narrates this memoir of her colorful and unconventional upbringing, as well as the punk rock scene she belonged to. Neneh Cherry was born to a free spirit of a mother; her stepfather was experimental jazz musician Don Cherry, who was from Sierra Leone. The family bounced from country to country, home to home, always creating art along the way. Neneh Cherry's memoir describes both the good and bad of growing up with two artistically minded people. Like any great performer, Neneh Cherry keeps the energy high, delivering anecdotes in a voice that is warm and powerful. Experiencing her performance seems like talking about life with a cool friend. *V.B.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 9.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781797183534 $25.99

THE ROAD IS GOOD: How a Mother's Strength Became a Daughter's Purpose
Uzo Aduba
Read by Uzo Aduba

If you find Emmy Award-winning actor Uzo Aduba's on-screen performances captivating ("Orange Is the New Black"), wait until you hear her narrate her life story. Aduba's lifelong habit of journaling produces a memoir sizzling with ambience-enhancing details, beginning with descriptions of her '90s pop-culture-filled childhood in small-town Massachusetts. The daughter of Nigerian immigrants, Aduba sensitively describes the code-switching contortions that her identity demands. The anchor of this memoir is Aduba's mother and their mother-daughter relationship. Especially delightful are Aduba's descriptions of her time spent with relatives in Nigeria. Listeners get a front-row view of how Aduba has mastered everything from figure skating to starring on Broadway. Now she can add enthralling audiobook creation to her success list. *J.T.*

Penguin Audio 10 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593827888 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593827895 $76.00

THE WALL OF LIFE: Pictures and Stories from This Marvelous Lifetime
Shirley MacLaine
Read by Shirley MacLaine

The Wall of Life
PICTURES AND STORIES FROM THIS MARVELOUS LIFETIME
Shirley MacLaine

Listeners will marvel at the extraordinary experiences Shirley MacLaine, now 90, has packed into one lifetime. Her delivery is intimate and chatty—as if her listeners were sitting in her living room. She delivers surprises about Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis, the Dalai Lama, and even Mikhail Baryshnikov—to name a few of her friends. It's a list of the most famous people of the twentieth century. Her voice is sometimes hoarse, for example, when she speaks of the regret she has about not being there for her daughter's childhood, but her rhythm doesn't change. She has a whole lot of living to tell, and all of it is fascinating, delightful, and entertaining. Don't miss MacLaine's dazzling memoir filled with photos, love, and adventures. *E.E.S.*

Random House Audio 1.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593948347 $15.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593948354 $76.00

Fascinating, delightful, and entertaining.

YOU NEVER KNOW
Tom Selleck, Ellis Henican
Read by Tom Selleck

Like others in a subset of actors who are so comfortable in front of the camera or a professional microphone, Tom Selleck presents an entirely relaxed, conversational, and professional memoir that may also serve as a primer on what the ascent of a performer's career resembles—brick by brick. Selleck has a somewhat halting delivery, which may be a function of age or style. Occasional longer sentences muddle their final syllable a bit. For the most part, the memoir ends with the final episode of the 1980s TV series "Magnum PI." An epilogue speaks to more recent roles and life events. The work is one not to be missed as it is entertaining, informative, and fun. Selleck exhibits his ethics and high moral character in essentially every story and aside delivered. *W.A.G.*

Harper Audio 15.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780062945792 $27.99

PATRIOT: A Memoir

Alexei Navalny
Read by Matthew Goode

Matthew Goode's amiable narration sets the right tone for this memoir by the late Russian anti-corruption activist. With Alexei Navalny's ghost hovering over the recording studio, Goode does an outstanding job of channeling the activist's humanity and warmth. Avoiding sanctimony, he dryly delivers Navalny's gallows humor—of which there is plenty. Amid the terror and confusion of Novichok poisoning aboard a plane out of Siberia, Navalny notes that it rendered him unable to watch his favorite Rick and Morty episode—the one in which Rick turns into a pickle. Navalny even imagines the effect his poisoning and "tragic demise" in prison will have on book sales. Instead of a diatribe or manifesto, *Patriot* offers an engaging glimpse of an activist's mindset. *R.W.S.*

Random House Audio 16.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217016952 $25.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217016969 $85.50

LETTERS

Oliver Sacks, Kate Edgar [Ed.]
Read by James Langton, Kate Edgar

Dr. Sacks was a prodigious researcher, tireless clinician, voracious reader, indefatigable traveler, influential neurologist, and long-winded correspondent. The talented James Langton pays close attention to Sacks's English accent and British point of view. He seems to inhabit the great man's extraordinary mind. These revealing and erudite letters testify to Sacks's appetite for study, need to communicate, and insatiable yearning to solve problems. Addressed to famous people such as Jerome Bruner, Francis Crick, and Jonathan Miller, as well as former patients and his family, these missives present a kind of Rorschach test of the mind/brain/body relationships that so fascinated Sacks in his long career. His groundbreaking book and film, *Awakenings*, and his essays are elucidated in these dispatches. A gratifying, if very long, listen. *A.D.M.*

Penguin Audio 28.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade: ISBN 9780593947494 $30.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593947500 $95.00

DO SOMETHING: Coming of Age Amid the Glitter and Doom of '70s New York

Guy Trebay
Read by Edoardo Ballerini

DO SOMETHING
Coming of Age Amid the Glitter and Doom of '70s New York
GUY TREBAY

Novelist Richard Powers calls narrator Edoardo Ballerini the very best, and many listeners would agree. Ballerini's range is impressive, but he excels with the difficult, the literary, the opaque, and the autobiographical. He brings particular ease and purposefulness to this memoir by *New York Times* style critic Guy Trebay, portraying his early years in Manhattan in the 1970s. Wonderfully rendered and richly detailed, this is a story many narrators would be tempted to overplay. Ballerini's great skill is that the more polished and subtle the narrative, the more natural and at ease he sounds. Effortlessly, it seems, Ballerini captures the essence of Trebay's tone and sense of perishability in a narrative that seems loosely connected yet passes to the ear in an unbroken current. *D.A.W.*

Random House Audio 6.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593741610 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593741627 $76.00

> *Effortlessly, it seems, Ballerini captures the essence of Trebay's tone.*

GATHER ME: A Memoir in Praise of the Books That Saved Me

Glory Edim
Read by Glory Edim

Glory Edim, founder of the Well-Read Black Girl book club, performs her eloquent new memoir with charm and enthusiasm. The memoir is structured around the books that have been significant in her life, particularly those written by Black authors: Nikki Giovanni, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and more. Growing up in Arlington, Virginia, the child of Nigerian immigrants, Edim had a homelife that was both challenging and loving. She experienced the support of friends and teachers—and casual racism from the same folks. Books were her refuge and inspiration. Edim has excellent storytelling skills, mixing the funny, sad, and thought-provoking to great effect. Her listenable voice and zestful delivery add to the production's many pleasures. *A.C.S.*

Random House Audio 8 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593614877 $20.00

NOTES FROM AN ISLAND

Tove Jansson, Thomas Teal [Trans.],
Alexander Chee [Intro.]
Read by Orlagh Cassidy

NOTES FROM AN ISLAND
Tove Jansson

In 1963, Tove Jansson built a cabin on Klovharun, a tiny, rugged island in the Gulf of Finland, with the help of a fisherman named Brunstrom. Narrator Orlagh Cassidy takes a minimalist approach to her narration, enunciating precisely and adopting a slow pace as she recounts Brunstrom's notes on building the cabin, the island's weather, and Jansson's and her partner Tuuti's daily routines during the 26 summers they spent there. Though Cassidy's narration is spare, she is emotive as she describes life at the cabin the couple loved. A bonus pdf is included with the print book's illustrations of the island by Tuuti, who was a graphic artist, as well as black-and-white photographs. *S.E.G.*

Hachette Audio 2 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668648100 $14.99

THE SMALL AND THE MIGHTY: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement

Sharon McMahon
Read by Sharon McMahon

This audiobook profiles unsung heroes of American history, most of whom you wouldn't recognize. Author Sharon McMahon offers a narration that is almost loving in tone as she tells their stories. Her voice is gentle on the ears and easy to follow. Yet she also captures the drama and significance of each life. McMahon primarily uses declarative sentences, which translate well to audio. In addition, she utilizes her background as a teacher to construct the chapters in a logical order. Each story includes historical context that adds meaning to the narrative. For example, in the story about a former enslaved woman who travels to the American West to find the daughter who was taken from her, the author explores the realities of slavery and the Civil War. *R.C.G.*

Random House Audio 10.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593829745 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593829752 $85.50

EDEN UNDONE: A True Story of Sex, Murder, and Utopia at the Dawn of World War II

Abbott Kahler
Read by Cassandra Campbell

In this riveting audiobook listeners learn about a 1929 settlement on a deserted Galapagos island. This true-life account of couples seeking a new Eden illustrates why utopian dreams turn into nightmares. As one islander put it while describing their fruitful, lush island, "It could be so beautiful on earth if humans weren't animals." Golden Voice narrator Cassandra Campbell introduces Friedrich Ritter, a German doctor and bullying philosopher, and his lover and acolyte, Dore. Other settlers follow. Narrating diaries, letters, and publications, Campbell acquaints listeners with their motivations, triumphs, relationships, and, ultimately, their calamitous end. Campbell's voice is clear, and she maintains an emotional aloofness when describing people and events. Listeners are left to draw their own conclusions concerning what went wrong. *D.L.G.*

Random House Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217065172 $22.50

THE MOVEMENT: How Women's Liberation Transformed America 1963-1973

Clara Bingham
Read by Cassandra Campbell, Janina Edwards, Gibson Frazier, Kevin R. Free, et al.

The illuminating story of the Women's Liberation movement in the pivotal period of 1963-1973 is powerfully told by multiple narrators who give voice to nearly 150 women activists and nearly 20 men. This inclusive work creates a representative account of Second Wave Feminism by centering contributions from women of color and queer women. Kamali Minter, Janina Edwards, Natalie Naudus, and the others in this stellar lineup of narrators give attuned performances of interview selections, speeches, and media coverage. The narrators' voices become part of a nuanced narrative, embodying Flo Kennedy, Shirley Chisholm, Billie Jean King, and other influential figures as they share perspectives on topics like abortion rights, workplace discrimination, and representation in government. Contemporary listeners may hear themselves reflected in this audio production as advocacy efforts continue. *J.R.T.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 17.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781797181226 $29.99

THE SIEGE: A Six-Day Hostage Crisis and the Daring Special-Forces Operation That Shocked the World

Ben Macintyre
Read by Ben Macintyre

BEN MACINTYRE
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
THE SPY AND THE TRAITOR AND ROGUE HEROES
THE SIEGE
A SIX-DAY HOSTAGE CRISIS AND THE
DARING SPECIAL-FORCES OPERATION
THAT SHOCKED THE WORLD

If Ben Macintyre ever tires of writing true espionage stories and crazy capers, he can become a professional narrator instead. In 1980, shortly after Margaret Thatcher's election, at the same time that the U.S. was watching its own hostage crisis in Iran, six gunmen captured the Iranian embassy in London, taking more than two dozen hostages. Macintyre's precise British accent is compelling, his timing creates growing tension as the climax approaches, and his sense of humor at some of the narrative's quirky details is on subtle display. From the gunmen's demand that a province in Iran become independent to the interruption of a snooker final in order to show the SAS raid on live TV—Macintyre keeps his foot on the gas. *A.B.*

Random House Audio 14.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593913673 $25.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593913680 $95.00

Macintyre keeps his foot on the gas.

BANDIT HEAVEN: The Hole-in-the-Wall Gangs and the Final Chapter of the Wild West

Tom Clavin
Read by Johnny Heller

Johnny Heller's rough-and-tumble voice is the perfect match for Clavin's stories of Western outlaws and their hideouts. Much of the audiobook is devoted to Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch, but there's room for strange detours. Heller's hearty style can make a reportedly true story, such as the story of a robber whose skin became the shoes worn by a governor, take on the proportions of a tall tale. That and the research Clavin put into the audiobook make some aspects, such as the mysteries of Cassidy's last years, seem even more fantastic. Fans of Westerns will thrill to these stories of yesteryear—roughly the late 1800s—as much as they have for the fictionalized versions in books and movies. *J.A.S.*

Macmillan Audio 8 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250354303 $19.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781250399939 $74.99

SURVIVAL IS A PROMISE:
The Eternal Life of Audre Lorde

Alexis Pauline Gumbs
Read by Alexis Pauline Gumbs

Alexis Pauline Gumbs narrates her unique biography of writer, intersectional feminist, and civil rights activist Audre Lorde in a quiet, musical voice that rings with wonder, love, and curiosity. Though the audiobook follows a more or less chronological pattern, that's all it has in common with a traditional biography. Gumbs uses a variety of lenses—earthquakes, gray whale songs, volcanoes, black holes, nutmeg, the typewriter—to explore different aspects of Lorde's life and relationships. Gumbs writes within a legacy of Black feminism that feels alive in both the depth and creativity of her scholarship and the intimacy of her voice. This audiobook feels like an extension of Lorde's work, a book-length biographical poem that illuminates the interconnectedness of climate change, poetry, lesbian love, mystery, political struggle, and more. A remarkable achievement and transcendent audiobook. *L.S.*

Macmillan Audio 17.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250364562 $32.99

EMPRESSES OF SEVENTH AVENUE:
World War II, New York City, and the Birth of American Fashion

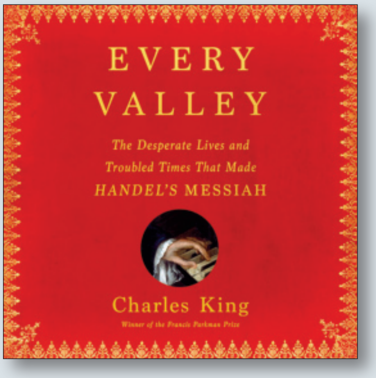
Nancy MacDonell
Read by Gail Shalan

From the time of Louis XIV's Versailles through the 1930s, the world of fashion was dominated by the French. Gail Shalan narrates this fascinating account of the dramatic and permanent changes in the industry instigated by the Nazi invasion of Paris in 1940. Women were most influential in the birth of New York's Seventh Avenue as the heart of new fashion. Shalan describes the designers, couturiers, journalists, and fashion buyers, sometimes colleagues but often rivals, whose creativity sparked the popularity of American style. Shalan adds a bit of character for some of the players and conveys the detailed account with clarity and enthusiasm for the topic. Thanks to the empresses of Seventh Avenue, modern fashion is accessible in both couture houses and department stores. *N.M.C.*

Macmillan Audio 10.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250366559 $26.99

EVERY VALLEY:
The Desperate Lives and Troubled Times That Made Handel's *Messiah*

Charles King
Read by Juliet Stevenson



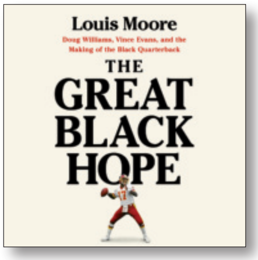
Golden Voice Juliet Stevenson's wise, somewhat bemused voice has introduced dozens of British classics to a generation of listeners. Her approach is familiar, subdued, precise. She skillfully builds and shapes this unexpectedly compelling history of the world's most performed piece of music. How Handel's *Messiah* came to be is a story with many twists, but it provides a focus for the broader story of an era, a society, and a string of history-altering events. This is one of the year's most satisfying popular histories, and one that will appeal to a broad range of listeners. Stevenson's voice isn't melodic, and it's toughened with age. But few narrators are as attuned to the rhythms and nuances of a narrative, or closer to its heart. *D.A.W.*

Random House Audio 10.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593947593 $20.00

> *Stevenson skillfully builds and shapes this unexpectedly compelling history.*

THE GREAT BLACK HOPE:
Doug Williams, Vince Evans, and the Making of the Black Quarterback

Louis Moore
Read by Leon Nixon



Leon Nixon uses his vocal talent and enthusiasm to bring listeners from the early days of racism in football to the glory of the talented Black football players who enjoy leadership in the sport today. Two men at the forefront of this fight were Doug Williams and Vince Evans, promising talents in the 1980s. They both came up through the ranks at their respective colleges, gaining respect as quarterbacks. Nixon brings a full range of emotions to his presentation, unlocking the intensity and drive that propelled the two men to persist until they succeeded at becoming professional players. Nixon's understanding of the obstacles and pressure they encountered infuses his skillful presentation with empathy and admiration. *E.E.S.*

Hachette Audio 9.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668644447 $27.99

THE ELEMENTS OF MARIE CURIE:
How the Glow of Radium Lit a Path for Women in Science

Dava Sobel
Read by Patricia Rodriguez

Patricia Rodriguez wisely takes her time performing this biography of physicist and chemist Marie Curie. Curie's life was chock-full of scientific breakthroughs, tragedy, sexism, and dozens of female scientists who worked with her. It's a lot to keep straight. Most of Curie's life was spent in Paris, so Rodriguez's skill with French enhances this audiobook. Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel and the only person to win in two different scientific fields. Sobel notes that she is still the only female scientist that many people can name. After her husband, Pierre, is killed in a traffic accident, Marie's grief is apparent. And as the skin of her hands begins to flake off from contact with radium, it's hard not to feel dread. *A.B.*

Recorded Books 10 hrs. Unabridged
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798894865911 $20.00
(also, MP3)

Author Ta-Nehisi Coates

THE MESSAGE

Ta-Nehisi Coates
Read by Ta-Nehisi Coates

THE MESSAGE
TA-NEHISI COATES
Bestselling Author of Between the World and Me
READ BY THE AUTHOR

Author Ta-Nehisi Coates narrates this must-listen, a powerful and thought-provoking collection of essays. In recounting his travels to Senegal and South Carolina, Coates incisively reflects on slavery and white supremacy. From his travels to Israel and Palestine, Coates meditates on the trauma of the Holocaust, segregated society, dehumanization, and voices that are missing from the narratives we are told. Coates frequently addresses listeners in the second person, a technique that creates an intimate connection to his words. With his measured pacing and gentle delivery, he encourages listeners to ponder the important issues and questions he covers. This audiobook is a haunting, timely examination of global affairs and the importance of truth and inclusivity in our culture. *V.T.M.* **2024 Best Audiobook**

Penguin Audio   5.25 hrs.   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593916421 $20.00 (also CD)
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593916438 $57.00

Powerful and thought-provoking.

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME
TA-NEHISI COATES
THE WATER DANCER
A NOVEL
Read by Joe Morton
Unabridged
#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
TA-NEHISI COATES
READ BY THE AUTHOR
BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME
"This is required reading." —Toni Morrison
AN UNABRIDGED PRODUCTION

More Listening

BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME

Ta-Nehisi Coates, read by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

THE WATER DANCER

Ta-Nehisi Coates, read by Joe Morton

Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

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Contemporary Culture Reviews

Photo by Gabriella Demczuk

MAGICALLY BLACK AND OTHER ESSAYS

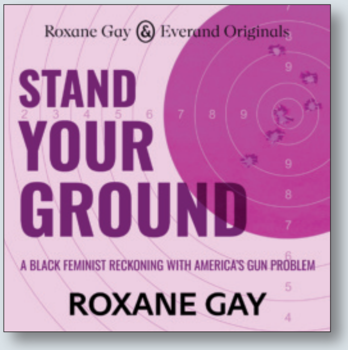
Jerald Walker
Read by Aaron Goodson

Aaron Goodson presents moving personal essays that vividly depict the joys, sorrows, and frustrations of an American Black man. Listeners meet Jerald Walker, a former cult member who is now a successful academic. Goodson energetically shares Walker's years as a member of the Worldwide Church of God, whose founder he hilariously compares to Donald Trump. Listeners will be present when Walker confesses to "youthful mistakes"—drugs and stealing—and then attains several college degrees. His visit in his 60s to a CBD dispensary is charming and relatable, while the outrageous challenges he faces driving while Black in his own upscale neighborhood are unforgettably told. Audio vividly conveys Walker's inspiring teaching and warm family relations, along with the personal and professional risks he's taken in his extraordinary life. *S.G.B.*

Harper Audio 4 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063161085 $27.99

STAND YOUR GROUND: A Black Feminist Reckoning with America's Gun Problem

Roxane Gay
Read by Roxane Gay


Roxane Gay & Everand Originals
STAND YOUR GROUND
A BLACK FEMINIST RECKONING WITH AMERICA'S GUN PROBLEM
ROXANE GAY

Roxane Gay, a feminist Black woman, narrates her essay on coming to terms with America's gun culture and growing ownership of guns, especially by Black women. In a thought-provoking consideration of this divisive topic, Gay is deliberate in her approach. She talks about how she came to buy a gun for protection in the face of increasingly specific and detailed death threats. She traces the history of the Second Amendment to the Constitution, noting that in the past people owned muskets that were single-shot and cumbersome to load, unlike the automatic or semiautomatic weapons available today. Using concrete examples, Gay calmly but passionately analyzes the racial disparity in how "standing your ground" is interpreted. Gay is cogent and measured in both her words and delivery. *J.E.M.*

Everand Originals 1 hr. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781094475592

> *Gay is cogent and measured in both her words and delivery.*

RECOGNIZING THE STRANGER: On Palestine and Narrative

Isabella Hammad
Read by Isabella Hammad

Novelist Isabella Hammad delivered the Edward W. Said Memorial Lecture at Columbia University in September 2023. In this powerful audiobook, she reads that lecture with poise and urgency. Her voice is assured and firm, inviting listeners to truly sit with the impact of her words. She examines the fight for Palestinian liberation through the lens of fictional and historical narrative, exploring how "aha" moments in fiction do not often lead to action or structural change in the material world. She offers a compelling framework for thinking about narrative in new ways. The audiobook includes an afterword in which she addresses the ongoing genocide in Gaza, as well as a clip of the original lecture. This short listen leaves a lasting impression. *L.S.*

Recorded Books 2.5 hrs. Unabridged
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798892749299 $9.45

LIFE AND DEATH OF THE AMERICAN WORKER: The Immigrants Taking on America's Largest Meatpacking Company

Alice Driver
Read by Lori Felipe-Barkin

Lori Felipe-Barkin's narration brings listeners into the everyday life of a Salvadoran migrant worker, but there's something about him that isn't everyday: his repetition of chicken-killing motions while asleep. Alice Driver talked to Tyson Foods workers in Arkansas to report on the company's working conditions, including its reluctance to maintain Covid safety. Felipe-Barkin delivers accounts of a chemical leak at the plant dramatically to get listeners involved in the events. She makes the killing of chickens sound macabre and sharpens her tone to narrate the ingredients list for chicken nuggets. Driver also calls out politicians, whose relationships with the meatpacking industry she considers cozy. This audiobook may be enough to give listeners doubts at the supermarket. *J.A.S.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 5.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668120620 $18.99

THE SING SING FILES: One Journalist, Six Innocent Men, and a Twenty-Year Fight for Justice

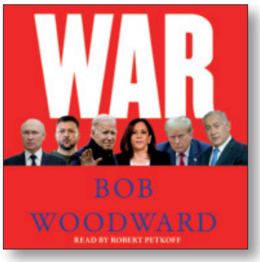
Dan Slepian
Read by Dan Slepian

When NBC "Dateline" reporter and producer Dan Slepian stumbled upon evidence that a number of men serving lengthy terms in the New York State prison system may have been innocent, he couldn't let it go. In a voice bristling with urgency, empathy, and determination, Slepian recounts how false identification, racial profiling, prosecutorial misconduct, incentivized witnesses, and just being in the wrong place at the wrong time can get an innocent citizen convicted of murder and sent to prison for life. A second chance at real justice takes faith, years of court hearings, and reams of paperwork—but for six men, Slepian's advocacy for the truth was well worth it. They're finally free. Enhanced with archival recordings, this is investigative journalism at its best and most necessary. *B.P.*

Macmillan Audio 7 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250366535 $19.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781250399724 $64.99

WAR
Bob Woodward
Read by Robert Petkoff

Having narrated the three previous presidential histories by Bob Woodward, Robert Petkoff is familiar with the author's cadence and tone. His reading of *War* is crisp, confident, and streamlined. He reports on the Biden presidency, focusing on three conflicts that will change the world: the Ukraine conflict and how the superpowers stumbled into it; the Israeli-Hamas dispute and how Netanyahu misled the U.S.; and the 2024 election, in which Woodward concludes that Trump is "unfit to run the country." *War* also traces signs of Biden's deteriorating health as early as June 2023. The audiobook was frightening to listen to before the election, but hearing *War* now, after all the ballots have been counted, may prove even more terrifying to some listeners. *R.W.S.*



Simon & Schuster Audio 12.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781797189741 $26.99 (also CD)

ON FREEDOM
Timothy Snyder
Read by Timothy Snyder

In this engrossing and challenging examination of freedom and what it means to be free, Yale historian Timothy Snyder employs a heady mix of history, biology, civics, memoir, philosophy, and personal observation. Sounding like a favorite professor, Snyder demands the listener's undivided attention as he draws a distinct line between our freedom from such phenomena as government overreach and our freedom to thrive and make our own choices. These include access to good healthcare and a clean environment. Snyder draws on examples that range from the U.S. to Latin America and the war in Ukraine, but he sounds most at ease recounting a childhood memory of ringing a bell of freedom on his Ohio farm. An audiobook meant for these uncertain times. *B.P.*

Random House Audio 10.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593913697 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593913703 $76.00

THE BEST AMERICAN FOOD AND TRAVEL WRITING 2024
Padma Lakshmi, Jaya Saxena [Eds.]
Read by Eunice Wong,
Soneela Nankani, Ali Nasser,
Cary Hite, Chanté McCormick,
Shaun Taylor-Corbett

THE·BEST·AMERICAN
FOOD AND TRAVEL WRITING™ 2024
EDITED BY
PADMA LAKSHMI

Food and travel writing mingle in this fine collection. Padma Lakshmi's introduction, narrated by Soneela Nankani, is much more than a standard intro. Nankani shines in her sensitive and captivating performance of Lakshmi's very personal story of meeting with her estranged father in India. The excellent Eunice Wong reads Marion Bull's "Orange Is the New Yolk" with wit and a seductive tone. And Cary Hite is simply splendid in his rendition of Kiese Laymon's "My Favorite Restaurant Served Gas." One of the travel pieces that stays with the listener is Ali Nasser's tour-de-force narration of the sad, horrific, but outstanding "Unsafe Passage," in which Palestinian poet Mosad Abu Toha chronicles his fraught journey to Egypt. A compelling audiobook. *A.D.M.*

Harper Audio 10 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063370661 $26.99

A compelling audiobook.

SOMETHING LOST, SOMETHING GAINED:
Reflections on Life, Love, and Liberty
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Read by Hillary Rodham Clinton

As narrator, former First Lady, Secretary of State, and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton sometimes sounds like a friend dropping by to chat. She discusses her grandchildren, cozy moments at home, and gatherings with longtime friends. But her memoir is also part political commentary and part Washington insider gossip, as well as an in-depth analysis of the current status of American democracy. She recounts historical events, such as evacuating vulnerable women from Afghanistan, and at those times her voice is tense and dramatic. A terrifying chapter describes what the country would face with a second Trump presidency. While Clinton has her own political bias, she is in a unique position to illuminate events that have impacted the world and current threats to our nation's liberty. *D.L.G.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 13.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781797153667 $29.99 (also CD)

DANSE MACABRE
Stephen King
Read by Holter Graham

If narrator Holter Graham's youthful exuberance seems an unlikely match for King's master class on popular horror, keep in mind the timeline. King wrote this analysis of film, radio, and literary horror during the late 1970s—when he was in his early 30s. It makes for a fascinating listen for multiple reasons. As King's own star was rising, high- and lowbrow pop culture were in open conflict, with *The Exorcist* and *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* sharing space in the public consciousness. The audiobook doesn't sound out-of-date as King deconstructs what makes a story terrifying, or just laughable. Graham makes it all sound fresh and current, capturing the spirit of a young author with ideas to spare. *S.P.C.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 18 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781797190433 $29.99

MORE REVIEWS

Exclusive Web-Only
Contemporary Culture Reviews
audiofilemagazine.com

THE LAST DREAM

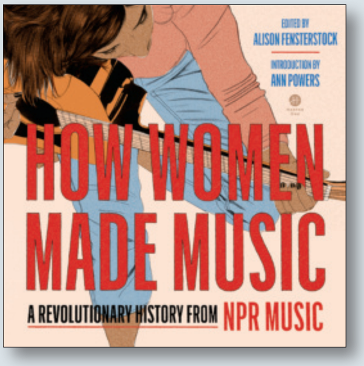
Pedro Almodóvar,
Frank Wynne [Trans.]
Read by Colman Domingo,
Rachel Weisz, Juan Diego Botto,
Norbert Leo Butz, Taylour Paige,
Michael Cera, Edoardo Ballerini

A supremely talented cast narrates 12 short works that could only have originated from master storyteller/director Pedro Almodóvar. This first collection ranges from personal essays—there's one about the death of his mother—to a fascinating retelling of "Sleeping Beauty" that revolves around the Spanish Queen Juana la Loca. Fans of Almodóvar's work will recognize the story "The Visit" from his film *Bad Education*. Collectively, the narrators rise to the challenge of conveying the emotions and the unique aspects of these curious tales. The narrators, professional actors, aptly convey Almodóvar's passion for storytelling with their vocal talents. The author's introduction offers more insight. Fans of Almodóvar's work should not miss this remarkable collection. *A.M.*

Harper Audio 6 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063349773 $26.99

HOW WOMEN MADE MUSIC: A Revolutionary History from NPR Music

Alison Fensterstock [Ed.],
Ann Powers [Intro.],
National Public Radio
Read by Alison Fensterstock,
Ann Powers, et al.


EDITED BY ALISON FENSTERSTOCK
INTRODUCTION BY ANN POWERS
HOW WOMEN MADE MUSIC
A REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY FROM NPR MUSIC

Alison Fensterstock and Ann Powers deliver an ambitious, sprawling, almost overwhelming project. That's by design. The history of music traditionally revolves around men and their recordings, with women as afterthoughts. This audiobook is not just about inclusion. It's a corrective recentering. The origin story of the song "Hound Dog" is a focal point. It's often attributed as Elvis Presley's signature song. Yet the 1953 single, performed by Big Mama Thornton, is the true original. From there, listeners move through time and genres. Often, performers' own voices are present, providing their perspectives directly. It's exhilarating to hear Dolly Parton, Nina Simone, and Queen Latifah in the mix, giving listeners this mosaic of music history. The impact is undeniable. *S.P.C.* **2024 Best Audiobook**

Harper Audio 10.75 hrs. Audio Program
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063270350 $27.99

The impact is undeniable.

HEARTBREAK IS THE NATIONAL ANTHEM: How Taylor Swift Reinvented Pop Music

Rob Sheffield
Read by Rob Sheffield

Rob Sheffield, a rock journalist for *Rolling Stone*, is a huge fan of Taylor Swift and doesn't mind who knows it. Sheffield is middle-aged and so tall that he has to scrunch down at Swift's concerts so as not to block the view of the girls behind him. As author and narrator, Sheffield comes off as both nerdy and cool, which is a charming and infectious combination. He sounds like he's riffing his wry and perceptive observations, perfect for an audiobook about music. He's not gossipy—even as he parses the lyrics, he's not all that interested in Swift's personal life. Swift wrote all her own songs, even as a young teenager, and while those songs seemed to be about boys, they were really about the development of the girl in the story. *A.B.*

Harper Audio 5.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063351288 $26.99

LIFEFORM

Jenny Slate
Read by Jenny Slate, George Saunders,
Vanessa Bayer, Will Forte

Comedian, actor, and writer Jenny Slate is observant, sharp, and vulnerable in her latest audiobook about the nature of life. Her focus is wide—ranging from pregnancy and birthing to her place in the universe. The totality of the listening experience is deeply moving and delivered with a kind of openness that simply compels listeners to pay attention. Slate is not above the occasional scatological joke, but even those moments are a part of her lived experiences. Her material can be decentering, often taking listeners on flights through her perceptions of the world, yet her voice is always thoughtful and engaging. Her performance is timed to fully project both the humor and the heartbreak of giving life and being alive. *S.P.C.*

Hachette Audio 5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668623480 $18.99

ACCIDENTALLY WES ANDERSON: ADVENTURES

Wally Koval, Amanda Koval,
Wes Anderson [Fore.]
Read by Seamus McMahon, Jeff Goldblum

This delightful travel audiobook features commentary and an accompanying pdf of photos of unique, quirky, and splendid sites around the world that emulate renowned film director Wes Anderson's visual style. Seamus McMahon is a capable narrator, and Jeff Goldblum brings all his acting chops to his performance. With his well-tuned variations in tone and pace, Goldblum's sections, in particular, are irresistible. The sites are interesting, as well: Vermont features an opera house that spans Canada and the U.S., and "Oxbridge" (Oxford and Cambridge, in England) illuminates such academic eccentricities as rules that state who may walk on the lawns. The North Pole and the Antarctic get star billing, too. Travelers, architecture buffs, and the simply curious will find much to listen to and look at here. *A.D.M.*

Hachette Audio 5.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668644867 $24.99

Spotlight on Nature Writing

THE INSECT EPIPHANY: How Our Six-Legged Allies Shape Human Culture

Barrett Klein
Read by Sean Patrick Hopkins

Entomologist Barrett Klein describes the importance of insects to life on Earth, as well their influence on our culture and civilization. Narrator Sean Patrick Hopkins has a tone of curiosity and wonder as he takes the listener on a comprehensive tour of the insect world, covering topics such as insects' influence on developments in science and engineering, mind-altering experiences guided by insects, insect dance, and insects' influence on the arts, like music and fashion design. Hopkins is an apt teacher, fostering listeners' interest in the subject. The production includes jaunty insect-like music. A downloadable pdf with beautiful illustrations and photographs from the book further complements the narration. *S.E.G.*

Hachette Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668643525 $24.99

WHAT THE CHICKEN KNOWS: A New Appreciation of the World's Most Familiar Bird

Sy Montgomery
Read by Sy Montgomery

Sy Montgomery is so joyful and enthusiastic while describing her adventures with her flock of chickens that listeners will want to stroke a hen and pick up a rooster just to participate in her positive view of the world. Montgomery is keenly observant and curious. She calls her chickens "the ladies," and she recognizes each hen's individual call and personality. She also cites studies demonstrating chicken intelligence but notes they will also mercilessly peck at an injured member of their flock. Montgomery's desire to restore the natural landscape can collide with her love for her chickens whenever a repopulated critter kills one. Her mixed emotions are obvious: She can't bring herself to be angry at a natural predator, yet she feels forlorn. *A.B.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 2 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781797184678 $14.99

THE BEST AMERICAN SCIENCE AND NATURE WRITING 2024

Bill McKibben, Jamie Green [Eds.]
Read by Eileen Stevens, Stephen Graybill, Lee Osorio, Gina Daniels

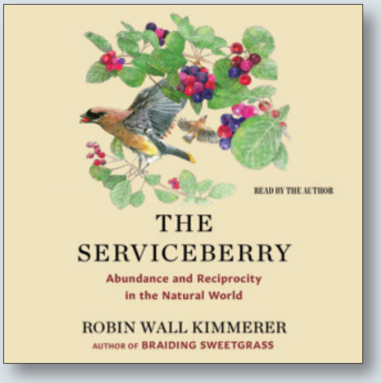
Narrators Eileen Stevens, Stephen Graybill, Lee Osorio, and Gina Daniels use their considerable talents for this broad array of essays and articles on science, nature, and the relationship between the two. In his introduction, narrated by Graybill, editor Bill McKibben lays out his theme for this volume: climate change and its growing impact on the natural world and humanity. The first half of the production features a wealth of disheartening reporting. Nonetheless, each narrator is successful at finding the nuance and passion within these stories. In particular, Daniels evokes the poignancy of climate tragedy in "Why Maui Burned," and Osorio masters the biting wit of "Solving Climate Change Will Have Side Effects. Get Over It." *N.M.*

Harper Audio 14.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063334014 $27.99

Photo by John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

THE SERVICEBERRY: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World

Robin Wall Kimmerer
Read by Robin Wall Kimmerer


READ BY THE AUTHOR
THE SERVICEBERRY
Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World
ROBIN WALL KIMMERER
AUTHOR OF BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

Author and narrator Robin Wall Kimmerer, who is Potawatomi, gently guides listeners through this thoughtful exploration of gift economies and cultures of reciprocity. Using the framing device of an outing to gather serviceberries, which are also popular with the local birds, Kimmerer traces the pathways of mutual obligation and abundance seen in nature and in many traditional and Indigenous cultures. She adeptly contrasts these with the ideas of capitalist consumer culture and scarcity mindsets that dominate formal economic theory. Kimmerer's narration is both analytical and casual, combining her background in botany with history and sociology while discussing ways that gift economies can operate in small groups and at a larger scale. Listeners will feel transported to a berry patch amid sun and birdsong. *N.M.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 2 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668116692 $9.99

AMPHIBIOUS SOUL
BRAIDING SWEETGRASS
ROBIN WALL KIMMERER
The COMFORT of CROWS
A Backyard Year
FINDING THE MOTHER TREE
FUZZ
MARY ROACH
LIFE BETWEEN THE TIDES
AN IMMENSE WORLD
ED YONG
Soil
CAMILLE T. DUNGY
The Light Eaters
Zoë Schlanger
NADINA GALLE
THE NATURE OF OUR CITIES
Night Magic
LEIGH ANN HENION

More Listening

AMPHIBIOUS SOUL: Finding the Wild in a Tame World

Craig Foster, read by Craig Foster

Harper Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants

Robin Wall Kimmerer,
read by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Tantor Media Unabridged
Trade Ed: DD

THE COMFORT OF CROWS: A Backyard Year

Margaret Renkl, read by Margaret Renkl

Spiegel & Grau by Spotify Audiobooks Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

FINDING THE MOTHER TREE: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest

Suzanne Simard, read by Suzanne Simard

Random House Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

FUZZ: When Nature Breaks the Law

Mary Roach, read by Mary Roach

Brilliance Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD, MP3

LIFE BETWEEN THE TIDES

Adam Nicolson, read by Leighton Pugh

Tantor Media Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Library Ed.: DD

AN IMMENSE WORLD: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us

Ed Yong, read by Ed Yong

Random House Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

A LIFE ON OUR PLANET: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future

David Attenborough,
read by David Attenborough

Hachette Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

THE LIGHT EATERS: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth

Zoë Schlanger, read by Zoë Schlanger

Harper Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

THE NATURE OF OUR CITIES: Harnessing the Power of the Natural World to Survive a Changing Planet

Nadina Galle, read by Eileen Stevens

Harper Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

NIGHT MAGIC: Adventures Among Glowworms, Moon Gardens, and Other Marvels of the Dark

Leigh Ann Henion, read by Leigh Ann Henion

Hachette Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

THE SECRET WISDOM OF NATURE: Trees, Animals, and the Extraordinary Balance of All Living Things—Stories from Science and Observation

Peter Wohlleben,
Jane Billinghurst [Trans.],
read by Sean Pratt

Blackstone Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, MP3, DD
Library Ed.: CD

SOIL: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden

Camille T. Dungy,
read by Camille T. Dungy

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

THE UNDERWORLD: Journeys to the Depths of the Ocean

Susan Casey, read by Susan Casey

Random House Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

WORLD OF WONDERS: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments

Aimee Nezhukumatathil,
read by Aimee Nezhukumatathil

Brilliance Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD, MP3

WOMEN LIVING DELICIOUSLY

Florence Given
Read by Florence Given

Foulmouthed, straight-talking, and relatable, author and narrator Florence Given wants listeners to stop being chained by socially created restraints and to start living their lives to the fullest. This audiobook explores the barriers and societal oppression festering beneath the everyday advertising and patriarchal mythmaking that keep women from embracing their lives. Given shares her passionate ability to remove obstacles and encourages others to do the same. Her delivery gives this audiobook the feeling of a much-needed pep talk given to a friend in a time of crisis. She embraces a joyful spirit for those who choose to push back against the insidious lies created to keep women down. *V.B.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 9.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668113547 $25.99

MASTER OF ME: The Secret to Controlling Your Narrative

Keke Palmer
Read by Keke Palmer

Award-winning actor and singer Keke Palmer weaves personal stories and valuable advice into her inspirational self-help memoir. Authentic and deep, she draws listeners in with her signature voice, which has the ability to be energetic, sincere, and playful all at once. Palmer candidly speaks of moments in her life that have had significant impacts on her self-improvement and self-worth while offering friendly guidance. She shares the thought-provoking questions she asked herself when she started her journey to understanding her own value in this world. Palmer stresses the importance of being true to yourself, knowing your power, and finding your purpose—all the while sharing intriguing reflections and invaluable help on how to make that happen. *D.Z.*

MASTER OF ME
KEKE PALMER

Macmillan Audio 6 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250374561 $19.99

THE ART OF THE INTERESTING: What We Miss in Our Pursuit of the Good Life and How to Cultivate It

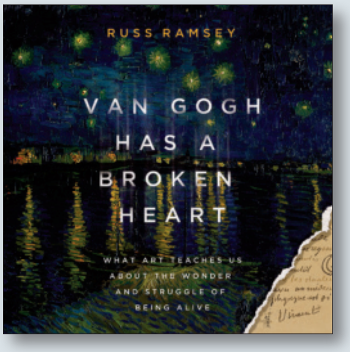
Lorraine Besser
Read by Lauren Ezzo

Lorraine Besser, philosopher and college professor, provides tools that help listeners stop the perpetual pursuit of elusive happiness and focus more on "the interesting" in life. Lauren Ezzo delivers Besser's philosophy in a knowing performance, energizing every nuance, story, and emotional passage in a way that reflects the author herself. Ezzo supplies examples of ways people waste time and miss meaningful life experiences through the unsatisfactory search for what they believe is "the good life." Besser's research, as presented by Ezzo, focuses on how discovering your personal passions and interests leads to more life satisfaction. True rewards arise through novel experiences, spontaneous adventures, and letting go. Ezzo makes this philosophical session both interesting and inspirational. *B.J.P.*

Hachette Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668643792 $24.99

VAN GOGH HAS A BROKEN HEART: What Art Teaches Us About the Wonder and Struggle of Being Alive

Russ Ramsey
Read by Kaleo Griffith


RUSS RAMSEY
VAN GOGH HAS A BROKEN HEART
WHAT ART TEACHES US ABOUT THE WONDER AND STRUGGLE OF BEING ALIVE

Narrator Kaleo Griffith delivers an insightful and moving discussion of the transformative power of art, and the beauty born of sorrow. Balancing journalistic flair and storytelling, this audiobook deepens our understanding of the history and experiences that shaped various renowned artists and their work. Highlights include stories about Artemisia Gentileschi's entrepreneurial prowess, the tumultuous relationship between Paul Gaugin and Vincent Van Gogh, and how a murder in Mississippi in 1964 inspired Norman Rockwell's painting *Murder in Mississippi* (also known as *Southern Justice*). Through a thoughtful mix of solemnity, curiosity, and appreciation, Ramsey's inspiring and profound art venture reminds us that wonderful and terrible things happen in this world, yet beauty is everywhere. *M.F.*

Zondervan 6.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780310155591 $19.79

Griffith delivers an insightful and moving discussion.

REBEL: Find Yourself by Not Following the Crowd

Graham Cochrane
Read by Graham Cochrane

Podcast host Graham Cochrane narrates his guidebook on how to pursue personal dreams and goals. In particular, he gives listeners advice on how to stay true to their desires and not conform to what is expected of them. Cochrane has an effective congenial tone as he asks listeners what is preventing them from pursuing their true life's purpose and shares his own experiences on how he was able to find his own path to joy. He is simple yet thought-provoking in his delivery and offers the enthusiastic support needed to ponder his questions and follow his framework. Welcoming and comforting, Cochrane gets listeners thinking about what their ideal life looks like by using spirituality and the steps that helped him achieve true happiness. *D.Z.*

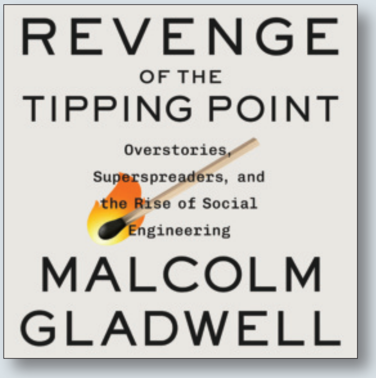
Brilliance Audio 4 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781511345705 $28.99

NO ONE GETS TO FALL APART
Sarah LaBrie
Read by Sarah LaBrie

Sarah LaBrie, a successful television writer based in Los Angeles, narrates her gripping memoir of family trauma in a calm, sweet voice that keeps listeners engaged. Throughout LaBrie's childhood her mother ricocheted from one psychiatric episode to another, terrifying and caring ineptly for the girl. With hard work and luck, LaBrie made it to an Ivy League college. There, a Black woman in a predominantly white school, she encountered new challenges. When, at last, her mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia, LaBrie began to explore the family's history of mental illness and her own survival. She narrates precisely, with a studied neutrality. Her pacing is quick without being rushed. Her tone is compassionate. The result is a harrowing and engrossing listen. *A.C.S.*

Harper Audio 6.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063280752 $27.99

REVENGE OF THE TIPPING POINT: Overstories, Superspreaders, and the Rise of Social Engineering
Malcolm Gladwell
Read by Malcom Gladwell et al.


REVENGE
OF THE
TIPPING POINT
Overstories, Superspreaders, and the Rise of Social Engineering
MALCOLM
GLADWELL

Malcolm Gladwell once again shows that audio is the ideal medium for someone who excels at both long-form journalism and podcasting. In this follow-up to his iconic debut, *The Tipping Point*, Gladwell explores the bleaker side of how things go viral. His unmistakable delivery has become more animated after years at the mic, and as he's done in previous audiobooks, he uses snippets of recorded interviews to give authentic voices to many of his subjects. Less successfully, voice actors present the rest of the quotes. Some of Gladwell's arguments about contagion are more persuasive than others, but the overall presentation is so compelling that listeners will binge this work and wonder where the time went. *D.B.*

Hachette Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668643334 $24.99

> *Gladwell once again shows that audio is the ideal medium.*

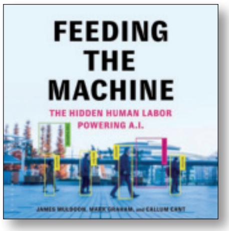
THIS ORDINARY STARDUST: A Scientist's Path from Grief to Wonder
Alan Townsend
Read by Alan Townsend

Author and lifelong scientist Alan Townsend offers a moving account of how he learned to draw on a healing faith rooted in science to sustain himself amid catastrophe. Townsend shares how his family was asked to imagine the unimaginable: First, his young daughter and then his brilliant wife developed unrelated, life-threatening brain tumors. Listeners will be touched by the intimacy of his narration and feel drawn into his journey. As he recounts being forced to grapple with faith at its most challenging, Townsend invites listeners to consider their own hard losses. Townsend's narration is excellent; his likable voice, sensitive pacing, and tone of genuine connection to the memoir make him the perfect narrator as he addresses the challenges and beauty of finding a path through intense grief. *J.C.G.*

Hachette Audio 6.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668641897 $24.99

FEEDING THE MACHINE: The Hidden Human Labor Powering A.I.
Mark Graham, Callum Cant, James Muldoon
Read by Orlando Wells

This audiobook challenges the notion that artificial intelligence has emerged without human involvement, thoroughly examining the toll AI has taken on the countless unseen workers who were so crucial to its development. Narrator Orlando Wells is superb. Reflecting grit and candor, he recounts the development of AI from the vantage point of its often unheard workers. These overlooked developers include writers, artists, data annotators, content moderators, and warehouse crews. The audiobook also emphasizes the importance of change agents to future advancements and offers ways that the future of AI can build upon these events rather than ignoring them. *D.J.S.*


FEEDING
THE
MACHINE
THE HIDDEN HUMAN LABOR POWERING A.I.
JAMES MULDOON, MARK GRAHAM, and CALLUM CANT

Bloomsbury Publishing 10.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: $24.00

THE ANTI-ABLEIST MANIFESTO: Smashing Stereotypes, Forging Change, and Building a Disability-Inclusive World
Tiffany Yu
Read by Tiffany Yu

Tiffany Yu invites listeners to join her in advocating for a more accessible society for disabled people. When she was just 9 years old, Yu was in a car accident that permanently paralyzed her arm and gave her PTSD. Later, she founded the disability advocacy organization Diversability and gave a TedX Talk about how to create more disability-inclusive work environments. Using a combination of personal experience and research, Yu examines topics like language, microaggressions, and the importance of creating more inclusive events. Yu's performance matches the tone of her prose well. Her voice is often warm, inviting, and kind. When pointing out ableist behaviors and systemic issues, her voice is appropriately firm and resolute. *K.D.W.*

Hachette Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668639214 $24.99

The Business of Work

With audiobooks that run the gamut from career advice to guides for people starting or operating a business, titles about the world of work make up a broad category. Lessons about factors that impact business like national politics and geopolitical stability are also important, as anyone knows who follows the financial news. Oh, did I forget to mention the impact of digital technology on, well, everything? And the revolution that artificial intelligence is igniting?

Audiobooks about work and business can be challenging for voice pros to perform. Compared to titles that are part of the arts or personal growth, these titles can be dry and mechanical. To keep the action moving, the best narrators study their scripts to find the irony, fascinating dynamic, or hero's journey hidden within the narrative.

The excellent voice pros performing our five featured audiobooks know something about putting life into a performance. They know how to dig beneath the words to find the nuances and drama needed to make listening special. Michael Braun, *The Nvidia Way*, and Alex Boyles, *Tech Agnostic*, both have a knack for finding the exact type of energy needed for important words and phrases. With their rich array of vocal tools, they are always in sync with the themes in the writing. This and their handsome vocal tones make these two audiobooks fun to hear and, in these uncertain times, soothing. Good listening and *bon courage!—Tom Walken*

THE NVIDIA WAY: Jensen Huang and the Making of a Tech Giant

Tae Kim
Read by Michael Braun

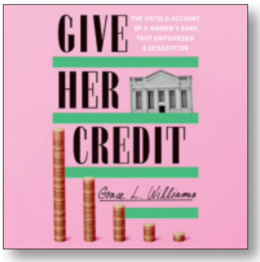
Narrator Michael Braun provides a flawless interpretation of this extensive look at the high-flying AI company Nvidia. Along with his inviting vocal tone, his creative phrasing is engaging—never repetitive and always in sync with the riveting dynamics of the company's rise to prominence. The captivating story details Jensen Huang's 31 years leading Nvidia and how he relentlessly prodded his team to thrive and grow. The heart of the audiobook is an analysis of how Huang's openness to learning and ability to spark achievement in others created a business culture that has thrived in the competitive chip and processing market. As a portrait of an innovative tech business and its founder and leader, this is an exceptional listening and learning experience. *T.W.*

Recorded Books 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798894867212 $20.00
(also CD, MP3)

GIVE HER CREDIT: The Untold Account of a Women's Bank That Empowered a Generation

Grace L. Williams
Read by Adenrele Ojo

As she performs this galvanizing piece of cultural history, Adenrele Ojo's pacing and vocal character balance the formality needed for the material and the inviting tone that makes the story engaging. A financial media journalist and economics scholar recounts the trailblazing efforts of entrepreneur Carol Green and other prominent women to start a bank that would treat women like they were more than subservient wives unable to manage their own money. This was in 1978 in Denver, just four years after the Equal Credit Opportunity Act required U.S. banks to stop discriminating against women. Ojo's respect for the financial obstacles women had to overcome is audible but never sounds righteous or indignant. Her mature tone matches the stature of the author and her intelligent perspectives. *T.W.*


GIVE
HER
CREDIT
The Untold Account of a Women's Bank That Empowered a Generation
Grace L. Williams

Brilliance Audio 7.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781511344135 $35.99

THE EMPLOYEE ADVANTAGE: How Putting Workers First Helps Business Thrive

Stephan Meier
Read by Joe Knezevich

Using research and case studies from large and small companies, a behavioral economist and business strategy expert shows how employees who feel respected invest more of themselves in a company's mission and impact customer loyalty. Despite investor and analyst griping about labor costs, these human-centric companies are also more profitable than those that treat employees simply like an expense. Joe Knezevich's excellent performance strikes the right balance between enthusiastic optimism and intellectual confidence. His positive tone and comfortable phrasing make this easy to hear from start to finish. He sounds like he has a deep understanding of the business professor's noble mission to promote a more humane balance between labor and the interests of owners and other stakeholders. *T.W.*

Hachette Audio 8.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668644430 $24.99

TECH AGNOSTIC: How Technology Became the World's Most Powerful Religion, and Why It Desperately Needs a Reformation

Greg M. Epstein
Read by Alex Boyles

As narrated by Alex Boyles, this provocative audiobook will startle listeners who are fascinated with how AI will affect society. Humanist minister Greg Epstein sees parallels in the fervor people feel toward traditional religions and the exuberant devotion the business world feels toward tech innovations like Bitcoin and the godlike thinking machines that will likely dominate the world. Speaking with a beautiful palette of tone, pacing, and phrasing tools, Boyles makes these ideas sound appealingly human and totally synced with the author's thinking. Boyles's use of tonal variation and strategic pauses makes everything clear. Boyles is an outstanding and fun-to-hear interpreter of this astute analysis of technology, religion, culture, and social psychology. *T.W.*

Blackstone Audio   12.75 hrs.   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD ISBN 9798558016903 $49.95
(also MP3, DD)

NICE GUYS FINISH LAST AND OTHER WORKPLACE LIES: Successfully Navigate the Modern Workplace

John Ruffa
Read by Eric Fox

A NASA systems engineer who's led many high-stakes missions shares what he's learned about succeeding in today's workplace. His advice, neatly packaged in 42 concise chapters, goes well beyond how to be nice. Ruffa also provides help with an array of familiar challenges like navigating hierarchies, learning from mistakes, questioning the status quo, and negotiating with people at all levels. With his resonant voice and skillful interpretations, narrator Eric Fox connects well with the author's humanitarian intentions and down-to-earth strategies for making work satisfying. *T.W.*

Vibrance Press   8.25 hrs.   Unabridged
Digital Download: DD ISBN 9798890930798 $19.95
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798890930798 $29.95

More Listening

99% PERSPIRATION: A New Working History of the American Way of Life

Adam Chandler, read by Adam Chandler

Why individual grit and hard work by themselves are not good strategies

Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

THE MYTH OF MAKING IT: A Workplace Reckoning

Samhita Mukhopadhyay, read by Samhita Mukhopadhyay

Workplace wisdom on culture, capitalism, gender, and the costs of success

Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

ENCHILADA ENTREPRENEUR: Ten Lessons in Life and Business from the Founder of a Successful Tex-Mex Restaurant Group

Russell Ybarra, read by Toby Tomplay

The attitudes and practices needed for success and a satisfied mind

Greenleaf Book Group   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

YOU WILL OWN NOTHING: Your War with a New Financial World Order and How to Fight Back

Carol Roth, read by Chris Henry Coffey

Learn how to resist the changes financial elites will impose on you.

Harper Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

DO BIGGER THINGS: A Practical Guide to Powerful Innovation in a Changing World

Dan McClure, Jennifer Wilde, read by Corrine Davies

Overcome the dragging weight of your mental habits and the status quo.

Greenleaf Book Group   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

IS YOUR WORK WORTH IT? How to Think About Meaningful Work

Christopher Wong Michaelson, Jennifer Tosti-Kharas, read by Andrew Sellen, Jennifer Tosti-Kharas, Christopher Wong Michaelson

How to find or create work that feels like a worthy part of your life

Hachette Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

RESET: How to Change What's Not Working

Dan Heath, read by Dan Heath

Intelligent primer on taking back control of our work, teams, and organizations

Simon & Schuster Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

JOB MOVES: 9 Steps for Making Progress in Your Career

Ethan Bernstein, Michael B. Horn, Bob Moesta, read by Ethan Bernstein, Michael B. Horn, Adam Barr

Choose jobs and a career that fit how you really want to work.

Harlequin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

WHAT'S YOUR DREAM? Find Your Passion. Love Your Work. Build a Richer Life.

Simon Squibb, read by Simon Squibb

Why career success must start with your desires, values, and capabilities

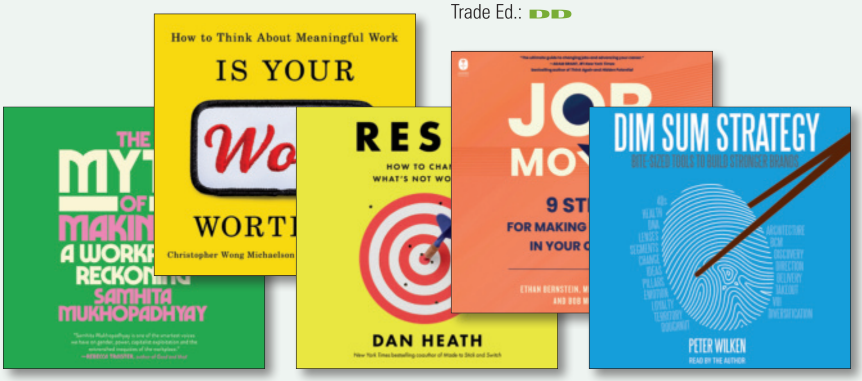
Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

DIM SUM STRATEGY: Bite-Size Tools to Build Stronger Brands

Peter Wilken, read by Peter Wilken

Strategies for making brands visible and relevant in the age of information overload

Post-Hypnotic Press   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD


How to Think About Meaningful Work
IS YOUR
WORTH
Christopher Wong Michaelson
THE MYTH OF MAKING IT
A WORKPLACE RECKONING
SAMHITA MUKHOPADHYAY
RESET
DAN HEATH
JOB MOVES
9 STEPS FOR MAKING PROGRESS IN YOUR CAREER
DIM SUM STRATEGY
BITE-SIZED TOOLS TO BUILD STRONGER BRANDS
PETER WILKEN

Author Jeff VanderMeer

Photo by Ditte Valente Photography

ABSOLUTION: The Southern Reach Trilogy, Book 4

Jeff VanderMeer
Read by Bronson Pinchot

ABSOLUTION
A NOVEL Book 4 of the Southern Reach Series
JEFF VANDERMEER

With a riveting pace and an enthralling voice, Bronson Pinchot takes listeners on three terrifying expeditions into the unknown with this fourth novel in the Southern Reach series. This time around we go back to the beginning and learn some of the truths, illusions, and horror that surround Area X. Pinchot embodies each member of each expedition and takes us through their descent into disbelief and madness as they strive to understand the reality they encounter. We feel the terror as each expedition leader succumbs to Area X's mind forces. Nothing is as it seems, and Pinchot narrates on, holding our attention in a vise that continues to tighten and strangle our breath. *L.M.G.*

Blackstone Audio 15 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798874810580 $29.95 (also CD, MP3)
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798874810573 $69.95 (also CD)

> *Pinchot takes listeners on three terrifying expeditionsinto the unknown.*

BOOK 1 OF THE SOUTHERN REACH TRILOGY
ANNIHILATION
AUTHOR OF THE SOUTHERN REACH TRILOGY
JEFF VANDERMEER
BORNE
A NOVEL
READ BY
DEAD ASTRONAUTS
A NOVEL | AUTHOR OF BORNE
THIS WORLD IS FULL OF MONSTERS
JEFF VANDERMEER

More Listening

ANNIHILATION: Southern Reach Trilogy, Book 1

Jeff VanderMeer, read by Carolyn McCormick

Blackstone Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD
Library Ed.: CD, MP3

BORNE

Jeff VanderMeer, read by Bahni Turpin

Blackstone Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, MP3, DD
Library Ed.: CD, DD

DEAD ASTRONAUTS: Borne, Book 3

Jeff VanderMeer, read by Emily Woo Zeller

Blackstone Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, MP3, DD
Library Ed.: CD

THIS WORLD IS FULL OF MONSTERS

Jeff VanderMeer, read by Vikas Adam

Macmillan Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

HOUSE OF FRANK
Kay Synclaire
Read by Imani Jade Powers

Imani Jade Powers performs a cozy fantasy about a grieving witch who finds solace at a magical home under the watchful eye of a mythical beast named Frank. Saika lost her magical powers in the same series of events that took her beloved sister. She journeys to put her sister to rest and arrives at the famous Ash Gardens, where she's quickly taken in by Frank and then discovers a mysterious threat besieging the home. Powers imbues Frank with a deep voice and an affectionate tone, and captures the grieving Saika's hope in the face of loss with artful delicacy. It's an unforgettable story about found family and overcoming grief, and Powers's capable narration evokes a warm hug. *J.M.M.*

Podium 11 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781039484177 $33.90

SPACE ODDITY:
The Space Opera, Book 2
Catherynne M. Valente
Read by Heath Miller

Heath Miller returns as narrator for this sequel to *Space Opera*. The heroes of this audiobook have saved Earth from destruction because they didn't finish in last place in the Metagalactic Grand Prix. Now it's time for another song contest, and they're trying to help some aliens figure out what they need to do. This is a story that begs to be read aloud, and Miller's sardonic tone is perfect for its quirky humor. In a stream-of-consciousness style reminiscent of Douglas Adams's *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, Miller is adept at helping listeners keep track of each main thought. Seemingly having great fun, he crafts personalities for the many characters who are as colorful as their names. *J.E.M.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 11.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781797180625 $26.99

MORE REVIEWS
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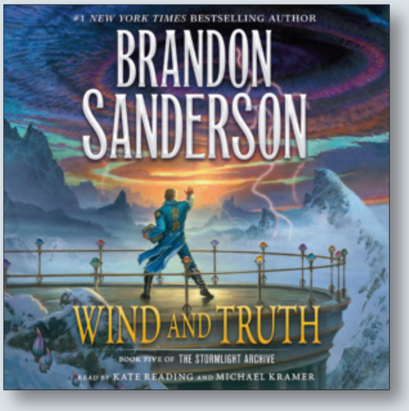
Sci-Fi & Fantasy Reviews
audiofilemagazine.com

WIND AND TRUTH:
Stormlight Archive, Book 5
Brandon Sanderson
Read by Kate Reading,
Michael Kramer

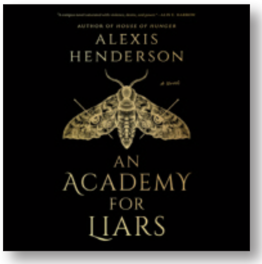

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
BRANDON SANDERSON
WIND AND TRUTH
BOOK FIVE OF THE STORMLIGHT ARCHIVE
READ BY KATE READING AND MICHAEL KRAMER

The endearing husband-and-wife team of Kate Reading and Michael Kramer continue their stunning narration of the Stormlight Archive series. Reading and Kramer switch off narrating—with both bringing special touches to their performances. Their narration is equal parts emotive and emphatic, gliding through accents and inflections with aplomb. The story is nuanced with complicated characters, and Reading and Kramer imbue every one with intriguing nuance. This series offers thrilling action, sparring conversations, and a sense that the world is vibrant and evolving. The narration coupled with the fascinating fantasy epic is a must-listen for series fans—and will keep newcomers intrigued by its deep world-building. *J.M.M.*

Macmillan Audio 62.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250368287 $49.99

A must-listen for series fans.

AN ACADEMY FOR LIARS
Alexis Henderson
Read by Tracie Frank



Tracie Frank pulls listeners into this dark academic romantasy, in which those with an enhanced power of persuasion reign supreme. Just when Lennon Carter feels like her life is over, she gets a mysterious acceptance to Drayton College, a school for an elite group of persuasionists. There, she meets Dante, her intriguing advisor, and fellow students who can change memories and shift reality with their powers. As her studies progress, Lennon must contend with the campus's violent past, Dante's mystifying history, and her own destructive tendencies. Frank's strength is pacing. She uses steady beats to move the narrative along and a speedy vocal performance to bring action scenes to life. This compelling addition to the growing romantasy canon is made all the more engaging by Frank's strong narration. *A.A.H.*

Penguin Audio 13.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593911310 $25.00

A DARK AND DROWNING TIDE
Allison Saft
Read by Saskia Maarleveld

Saskia Maarleveld brings the haunting realm of this dark sapphic academic novel to life with an evocative performance. She captures the fierce intellect of Lorelai, a magical folklorist who is determined to get to the bottom of her mentor's mysterious death. As she investigates, romantic tension develops between her and her enemy turned reluctant ally, Sylvia von Wolff. The tension ramps up on both sides as the former rivals uncover higher-reaching secrets than either suspected. Maarleveld adjusts her pacing to the intricate plot, making it gripping during moments of high tension without glossing over the romantic scenes. The overall experience is atmospheric. This is an excellent listen to curl up with on a chilly autumn evening. *C.J.C.*

Random House Audio 12.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593823699 $22.50

SORCERY AND SMALL MAGICS

Maiga Doocy
Read by Ciaran Saward

Ciaran Saward gives an appealing narration of this fantasy told from rakish Leovander Loveage's point of view. Leo, a scriver from a privileged gentry family, and Sebastian Grimm, a studious caster whose parents are farmers, are rivals in their fifth year at the Fount, a school of magic. Saward keeps all of the characters distinct, and he gives Grimm a Northern England accent that effectively differentiates him and his working-class background. After Grimm unwittingly casts a spell on Leo that compels him to do whatever Grimm says, they eventually decide to enter the Unquiet Wood, full of monstrous plants and animals, in search of a counterspell. Saward's characterization of the mysterious sorcerer they encounter there is a delight. *J.M.D.*

Hachette Audio 11.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668644508 $27.99

MODEL HOME

Rivers Solomon
Read by Gabby Beans

MODEL HOME
RIVERS SOLOMON

Gabby Beans performs this suspenseful novel about a Black nonbinary protagonist who is haunted by the events that occurred at their childhood home. After years of living in the UK, Ezri finds themself on a plane back to the U.S. to visit their parents in their suburban home outside Dallas, Texas. There, Ezri finds their parents dead and begins trying to reconstruct their last moments. Beans's narration captures the dialogue of Ezri and their two sisters, highlighting the vibrant dynamic between them. Beans's approach creates emotional depth for the siblings as they work through the trauma of their past and confront the horrific truths they've fought so hard to forget. *K.D.W.*

Macmillan Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250353962 $19.99

THE WITCHSTONE

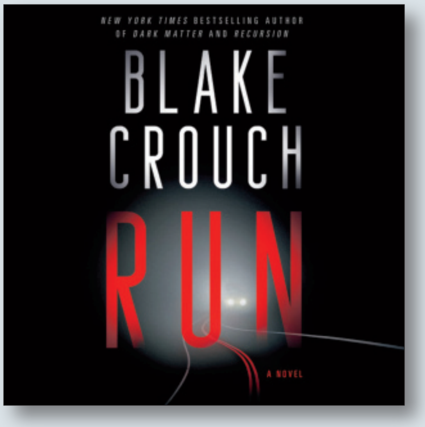
Henry H. Neff
Read by Ramiz Monsef

This captivating audiobook proves to be an unlikely but winning blend of humor and terror. Thank author Henry Neff for creating such an exotic cast of bizarre characters. But it's up to narrator Ramiz Monsef to bring those characters to life. This Monsef accomplishes magnificently with characters who range from Laszlo, a snarky 800-year-old demon, to Maggie, an earnest young woman from the sticks who is the latest bearer of the Drakeford Curse. The fun really begins when that duo, along with Maggie's stowaway younger brother, find themselves having only six days to break the curse. Monsef serves as a cheeky guide to the trio's travels around the globe as they seek out the necessary items for curse-breaking. Monsef's hilarious efforts make this a hoot of a horror story. *D.E.M.*

Blackstone Audio 17.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798212014632 $29.95
(also CD, MP3)
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798212014625 $69.95 (also CD)

RUN

Blake Crouch
Read by Scott Brick


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF DARK MATTER AND RECURSION
BLAKE CROUCH
RUN
A NOVEL

Scott Brick can be relied upon to deliver intensity in every audiobook he narrates, but he outdoes himself in this story of a family on the run in a world gone mad. Jack Colclough doesn't know why Americans started killing one another in a pointless frenzy of rage and violence, but it's up to him to keep his faithless wife and two loving children safe, and that means they need to run. Brick's frantic performance forces listeners to empathize with the desperate Jack as he narrowly escapes the killers. His portrayal of Jack's wife, Dee, is fraught with nuance. He delves into her unsavory past and her newfound respect and affection for Jack. This is an audiobook you can't put down. *M.S.*

Random House Audio 8.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593947876 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593947883 $95.00

This is an audiobook you can't put down.

REDUCE! REUSE! RECYCLE!

TJ Klune
Read by Daniel Henning

Daniel Henning narrates a prequel to *In the Lives of Puppets*. Douglas, or Android P-23, is given a week of relative freedom after working 10 years in the factory that made him. He learns many things and must make a hard choice when the week is over. Henning gives Douglas a somewhat flat and emotionless portrayal to start with, but as Douglas's week of freedom progresses, Henning's performance gains emotional depth and nuance. The final moments are truly heartrending as Douglas realizes the enormity of the choice he faces and Henning pours grief, fear, and hope into his performance. *K.M.P.*

Macmillan Audio 1.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250393616 $4.99

PODCAST EPISODE

Listen to an audio review at audiofilemagazine.com/podcast

THE RAINFALL MARKET

You Yeong-Gwang, Slin Jung [Trans.]
Read by Rosa Escoda

Rosa Escoda's performance captures the essence of this magical and emotional story. Serin is a lonely young woman who enters a magical market where she must choose her perfect life within a week—or risk vanishing forever. Escoda's voice draws listeners into this enchanting world, skillfully rendering each character in their own distinct tone, making their interactions feel genuine and engaging. Escoda's pacing keeps the narrative flowing smoothly, allowing its suspense and wonder to unfold naturally. The dynamic between Serin and her magical companion, Issha, is handled with care, adding warmth to their relationship. The mysterious, shadowy presence is narrated with understated tension, enhancing the story's intrigue. Escoda's performance immerses the listener in Serin's quest. *M.R.*

Penguin Audio 6 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217020195 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217020201 $95.00

QUEEN B: The Story of Anne Boleyn, Witch Queen

Juno Dawson
Read by Nicola Coughlan

Nicola Coughlan narrates this short audiobook set before the events of *Her Majesty's Royal Coven*. In 1536, Lady Grace Fairfax is distraught after the death of her lover and coven leader, Anne Boleyn. She's convinced another witch betrayed the coven, but King Henry VIII engages his witchfinders, complicating Grace's quest for revenge. In flashbacks the story explores Grace's arrival at court, where she desperately hides her power and slowly falls in love with Anne. Coughlan shifts her accent from Irish to British seamlessly to convey a range of characters, and her fierce tone connects listeners to characters' intense emotions. Romantic scenes are delivered with gentle warmth. A delightful blend of fiction and fact. *A.K.R.*

Penguin Audio 5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593907702 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593907719 $57.00

THE MOONLIGHT MARKET

Joanne Harris
Read by Joanne Harris

THE MOONLIGHT MARKET
READ BY THE AUTHOR
INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR
JOANNE HARRIS
A Novel

Joanne Harris narrates this fairy tale set in London. Tom is a young photographer who has a special talent for capturing surprising effects in his photos. When he becomes enamored with Vanessa, he is drawn into the magical world of the midnight folk and the daylight folk, where memories are currency. Harris does an outstanding job of making this world come alive. She imparts her fondness for the characters and the intriguing world she has created. There are four main characters and an extensive group of supporting characters, and she has a clear vision for each of them. Like all good storytellers, Harris expresses the emotions of the characters without being overly dramatic. *J.E.M.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 7.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668117835 $19.99

> *Harris does an outstanding job of making this world come alive.*

GREENBEARD

Richard James Bentley
Read by Colby Elliott

Avast, me hearties, what could be more fun for a seasoned narrator than to talk like a pirate for 12 hours? In this happy mash-up of Jules Verne, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Doctor Who, Colby Elliott gives distinctive voices to a number of landlubbers and the crew of the mighty, magical pirate ship *The Ark de Triomphe*. After a close encounter with a Martian space fleet that turns his gray beard green, Captain Sylvestre de Greybagges joins with famed American inventor Frank Benjamin on a high-seas chase that skewers everything from colonialism and the discovery of electricity to Shakespeare, alien abductions, and the Age of Reason. This deft and silly tale is guaranteed to have listeners talking like pirates by its conclusion. *B.P.*

Last Word Audio 12 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: $20.99

TINY THREADS

Lilliam Rivera
Read by Frankie Corzo

a novel
LILLIAM RIVERA
Tiny Threads

Narrator Frankie Corzo creates an immersive listening experience as a house of fashion slowly becomes a house of horror. Samara moved from New Jersey to California for a chance to start fresh at her dream job of working for a designer. Now Samara's sleep is continually interrupted by unexplained noises and the stench coming from the nearby slaughterhouse. Nightmarish oddities begin to occur at the design studio, too. Corzo's eerie whispers and whimpers add to the growing unease. Racked with fear and curiosity, Samara begins to unravel. Samara often uses what she calls a "white voice," and Corzo is skilled at alternating between this soft tone and a rougher Jersey accent. Corzo is excellent at reflecting Samara's traumatized mind with rapid speech. *A.L.C.*

Random House Audio 7.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593907153 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593907160 $85.50

FOR SHE IS WRATH
Emily Varga
Read by Safiyya Ingar

Safiyya Ingar's passionate, energetic narration enhances this audiobook retelling of *The Count of Monte Cristo*, reimagined as a young woman's quest for revenge. After nearly a year in prison for a crime she didn't commit, Dania is determined to escape and hold her ex-lover, Mazin, responsible for his betrayal. Her partner in this venture is Noor, a fellow prisoner with the ability to carry out powerful magic. Ingar commands the listener's attention with her consistent pace and complete commitment to Dania's wrath. Ingar shows remarkable versatility with her performance of Noor's softer, youthful tone and quiet intelligence. When Dania infiltrates Mazin's circle in disguise, Ingar injects palpable tension as Dania struggles to keep her old romantic feelings in check. *A.K.R.*

Macmillan Audio 11.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250366412 $26.99
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250400314 $84.99

MARKLESS
C.G. Malburi
Read by Sophie Amoss

Sophie Amoss's engaging performance enhances this young adult fantasy about a world divided between those who have the signs of magic on their palms and those who do not. The disenfranchised latter are called the Markless. When Ruti, a frank and sarcastic Markless witch, is apprehended for royal theft, she is coerced into helping the haughty Princess Dekala in her quest to rule the Somanchi realm on her own terms. The unlikely duo's fraught relationship has an undercurrent of romantic chemistry that Amoss expertly teases out. Listeners will delight in embarking on a cross-country adventure with Ruti as time is running out. Strong characterizations abound, thanks to Amoss's narration. *J.R.T.*

Recorded Books 11 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798891785403 $21.49
(also CD, MP3)

CELESTIAL MONSTERS:
The Sunbearer Duology, Book 2
Aiden Thomas
Read by André Santana

André Santana returns to narrate the conclusion of the Sunbearer Duology. Teo's refusal to sacrifice another semidiós at the end of the Sunbearer Trials results in chaos and perpetual night. As Xio feels conflicted over the Obsidian gods and their destruction, Santana seamlessly transitions between their youthful voice, the deep and manipulative voice of Vanganza, and the delightfully sinister voice of Caos. While Teo and his friends work to rescue the captured semidióses and restore the sun, Santana's consistent pacing and passionate delivery enhance Teo and Aurelio's growing feelings for each other. His voice for Niya, in particular, captures her confidence and strength, and magnifies her humor. *A.K.R.*

Macmillan Audio 12.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250902221 $26.99
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250399762 $84.99

> *"It was a thrill to return to the world of Mortal Engines after so many years. Philip's wonderfully hands-on with voices. I send him sound clips, and he makes helpful suggestions until we reach the right voice. It's very collaborative. His are among my favorite books to narrate."*
> —Narrator Barnaby Edwards

Photo by Nicholas Pegg

THUNDER CITY
Philip Reeve
Read by Barnaby Edwards

A MORTAL ENGINES NOVEL
PHILIP REEVE
THUNDER CITY
READ BY BARNABY EDWARDS

Barnaby Edwards's storytelling verve in this far-future adventure will have listeners rapt. Edwards is equally believable as a fussy tutor, a girl who is forced to fight mechanical monsters for entertainment, a washed-up soldier, and the rest of the characters who make up the story's motley crew. When Miss Torpenhow's city of Thorbury is taken over by hostile forces, she embarks on a dangerous quest to try to save it. The people she gathers around her during her journey become something of a found family. Edwards finds the emotional heart as he delivers Reeve's fascinating world-building and clever writing. Even listeners who haven't heard the other books in the Mortal Engines series will be able to dive into this exciting audiobook. *J.M.D.*

Scholastic Audiobooks 10 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781546144885 $24.99
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781546144892 $74.99

COMPOUND FRACTURE

Andrew Joseph White
Read by Dani Martineck

Dani Martineck performs this Appalachian horror story set in West Virginia. Miles Abernathy, age 16, has just come out to his parents when a group of boys attack him and put him in the hospital. The Abernathys have been in a blood feud for more than a century, but Miles believes he finally has a way to end it once and for all. As Miles recovers from his injuries, he begins to learn more about himself and uncovers more about his family's feud with the Sheriff and the Sheriff's family. Martineck gives an excellent performance, capturing Miles's voice perfectly. Martineck's narration makes Miles come alive in a new way, adding emotional depth to a complex character. *K.D.W.*

Listening Library 9.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Library: ISBN 9780593946923 $25.00
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593946930 $63.00

RUIN ROAD

Lamar Giles
Read by JD Jackson

JD Jackson's deep, strong voice captures the confidence of Cade Webster, one of the few Black students at his prep school and a talented football receiver on an athletic scholarship. Jackson's robust narration shows Cade's strong desire for fame, which would allow his family to escape a neighborhood beset by gangs and poverty. When Cade comes across a curious pawn shop, he buys a replica Super Bowl ring and makes a wish that changes everything. As he faces the man behind the magic, a slumlord who rules his neighborhood, Jackson's voice remains powerful. In this complex performance, Jackson balances scary supernatural elements with Cade's emotions at his father's death and the racism and classism around him. *S.W.*

Scholastic Audiobooks 9.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781546137085 $27.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781546137092 $83.99

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Young Adult Reviews
audiofilemagazine.com

HEIR

Sabaa Tahir
Read by Vidish Athavale, Esme Lonsdale, Joe Pitts, Marco Young, Rachel Petladwala

Esme Lonsdale, Vidish Athavale, and Rachel Petladwala bring palpable chemistry to the complex relationships in this epic fantasy. Something is afoot in the empire as three young people walk toward their destinies: Aiz communes with a holy spirit to get power to avenge her oppressed people, Prince Quil must soon step into a leadership role, and tracker Sirsha gets wrapped up with Quil as she hunts a murderer. The three journeys intertwine as a violent darkness takes hold—and the narrators' performances express the tension perfectly. While Petladwala's Sirsha and Lonsdale's Aiz are portrayed as powerful, complex women, Athavale's Quil helps bridge the multiple timelines. Together—with Joe Pitts and Marco Young as two supporting characters—the narrators start this duology off with a bang. *A.A.H.*

Listening Library 17.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593867594 $27.50
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593867600 $75.00

The narrators' performances express the tension perfectly.

THE WILD HUNTRESS

Emily Lloyd-Jones
Read by Moira Quirk

Moira Quirk confidently pronounces Welsh words as she narrates this fantasy. In a land filled with magical monsters, hunters compete during the Wild Hunt to earn a prize from the immortal king. Royal Gwydion hopes to keep his cruel brother from the throne and teams up with quick-witted commoner Branwen and kind Prince Pryderi. As Quirk narrates, monsters speak with hissing tones, and Branwen's voice is often dry with sarcasm. The three main characters become gentle with each other as they grow closer. Quirk's pace increases during suspenseful scenes, and fluctuating volume belies the characters' anger and sadness as they experience grief. Although this story has heavy themes and grim moments, hope and joy also shine through. *L.M.*

Hachette Audio 11.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668644089 $27.99

DEATH AT MORNING HOUSE

Maureen Johnson
Read by Katherine Littrell

Katherine Littrell narrates a mystery set on one of the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence River in Upstate New York. After accidentally setting a house on fire, Marlowe needs to get away and accepts a summer job at a mansion where a historical mystery once took place. Littrell uses different tones to distinguish Marlowe's story in the present from that of the Ralston family in the 1930s, creating heightened tension as the two stories converge. Marlowe is a likable heroine, despite the accidental fire, and Littrell leans into her awkwardness without downplaying her intelligence. Secondary characters are easily distinguished from one another in both timelines, and Littrell handily manages the characters' range of ages. *K.M.P.*

Harper Audio 9.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063255982 $27.99

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

Anna Sortino
Read by Jesse Inocalla, Elizabeth Robbins

ANNA SORTINO
On the Bright Side

Elizabeth Robbins and Jesse Inocalla narrate Anna Sortino's novel about two challenged teens. Robbins ensures that Ellie sounds angry when her boarding school for the deaf closes. Forced to return home to her hearing family and a public high school where she'll probably be the only deaf student, she wonders how she'll survive senior year. Portraying Jesse, Inocalla careens through a range of emotions when the failure of his healthy body costs his team the state championship and sends him on a journey to a life-changing diagnosis. When Jesse is assigned to help Ellie navigate her new school, it turns out to be a blessing as they both learn about acceptance, patience, and empathy. *N.E.M.*

Listening Library 8.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593864517 $25.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593864524 $56.00

ARIEL CRASHES A TRAIN

Olivia A. Cole
Read by Olivia A. Cole

Olivia A. Cole narrates her novel-in-verse about teenage Ariel, who is dealing with undiagnosed obsessive-compulsive disorder and aloof parents. Ariel's days are spent working at a carnival with caring friends and warding off the intrusive violent thoughts she calls "the crocodile." Afraid she won't live up to her parents' or society's expectations of what it means to be a good girl, Ariel attempts to make herself smaller and smaller. Cole's voice has a soothing meditative quality that flows with the verse. As Ariel begins to understand her condition, thanks to support from her sister, Mandy, and friends, Cole injects hope into her narration. At once stark and compassionate, this novel is a heavy but important listen. *C.R.*

Listening Library 7.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593795057 $20.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593795064 $50.00

NOTHING LIKE THE MOVIES: Movies, Book 2

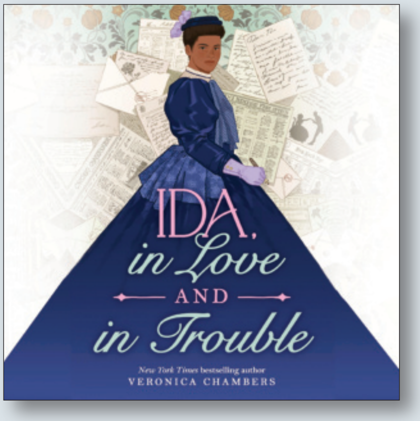
Lynn Painter
Read by Charlie Bushnell, Jesse Vilinsky

Narrators Jesse Vilinsky and Charlie Bushnell are swoon-worthy in this highly anticipated sequel to *Better Than the Movies*. The story is told from alternating perspectives. Wes is redoing his freshman year at UCLA after quitting school, moving back home to deal with a tragedy, and breaking up with Liz. Liz is drawn back to Wes when her internship requires them to work together. Wes is prepared to make every romantic gesture for the girl who loves love, but does he still know Liz after their time apart? Vilinsky brings her signature vibrant delivery, which includes gleeful screams, anguished shouts, and worried whispers. Bushnell exudes charm and provides excellent emotional range. His flat, ragged voice when Wes is in turmoil contrasts with his peppy voice full of gratitude at being back. *A.L.C.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 11.25 hrs. Unabridged
Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668120477 $26.99

IDA, IN LOVE AND IN TROUBLE

Veronica Chambers
Read by Janina Edwards



Narrator Janina Edwards inhabits Ida B. Wells, giving the determined Black woman a hero's spirit, an incandescent sense of her own worth, and a warrior's pride in accomplishment. In the 1880s, Ida was a teacher, a writer of articles for Black-owned newspapers, and an outspoken advocate for civil rights. Edwards creates a flesh-and-blood woman with a flirtatious personality who enjoys the attention of more than one young man at a time. She especially longs for love from a man who will allow her to be herself. Selections from Ida's columns, diary entries, and occasional love letters lend credibility to this engrossing historical fiction. Engaging writing and Edwards's top-notch performance showcase a Black woman who pushed against the restraints imposed on women of her race. *S.J.H.*

Hachette Audio 9.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668644058 $27.99

A top-notch performance.

PRINCE OF FORTUNE

Lisa Tirreno
Read by Raphael Corkhill, James Meunier

Narrators Raphael Corkhill and James Meunier give a compelling shared performance of this fantasy. When Prince Edmund and Aubrey meet for the first time, they have an instant connection that quickly blooms into more. But their country of Saben is on the brink of war—Aubrey and the other Seers have foreseen it in visions. Corkhill is convincing as brave, devoted Aubrey, who brings out the best in Meunier's shy Edmund. The story unfolds in what feels like a series of vignettes as Aubrey fights terrible battles against monstrous soldiers and Edmund worries for Aubrey and agonizes over whether his own magic will be enough to end the war—and whether he and Aubrey will win their fight to be together. *J.M.D.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 12.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668123140 $26.99

THE JUDGMENT OF YOYO GOLD

Isaac Blum
Read by Emily Lawrence

Narrator Emily Lawrence aids listeners in picturing Yocheved (Yoyo) Gold, eldest daughter of an Orthodox rabbi. Lawrence captures the intelligence, wit, and leadership that have made her a respected, responsible family member and friend. Lawrence also depicts Yoyo's sense of irony and inner turmoil when her best friend is sent away to a boarding school after kissing a boy. Yoyo's innocence and traditional beliefs are challenged by the leniently raised daughter of a Reform rabbi, who introduces her to McDonald's and TikTok, where Yoyo's first post goes viral. Lawrence gives a discerning view of the questions and conflicts related to insular orthodoxy in the contemporary world and a heroine who struggles, and finally discovers, her true self. Through Lawrence's narration cultural norms come into clear focus. *S.W.*

Listening Library 8.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593945179 $25.00
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593945186 $63.00

OF JADE AND DRAGONS: Of Jade and Dragons, Book 1

Amber Chen
Read by Jen Zhao

Jen Zhao's narration of this silkpunk fantasy enhances the intriguing story. Aihui Ying dreams of becoming a master engineer like her father, but women are barred from the Engineers Guild. After witnessing her father's assassination and receiving his journal, Ying sets out to avenge his murder. Disguised as a boy, she travels to the capital to take the guild's entrance exams. During her journey, she befriends two princes who help her maintain her disguise. Zhao's pacing and inflections keep listeners engaged as Ying faces numerous challenges. Her animated descriptions of mechanical devices further enhance the world-building, making even the technical elements of the story captivating. Zhao's performance amplifies the drama and depth of this adventure. *S.K.G.*

Listening Library 12 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593868348 $27.50
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593868355 $75.00

> *Zhao's performance amplifies the drama and depth of this adventure.*

PICK THE LOCK

A.S. King
Read by Max Meyers, Jorjeana Marie, A.S. King

Jorjeana Marie portrays the innocence, resilience, and burgeoning rebellion of 16-year-old Jane, daughter of punk rock star Mina Placenta. The years of spousal abuse experienced by Mina are revealed by security tapes taken in her home. Marie's narration gains gravity and menace when Vernon, Jane's controlling, abusive father, speaks. It softens when expressing the tenderness of Mina, who, when not touring, is imprisoned in pneumatic tubes throughout the house. A.S. King's authoritative voice, along with musical riffs, delineates the punk opera sections that are Jane's creative outlet. Max Meyers's threatening tones define the evil of a shape-shifting rat who promises destruction. Amid these surreal elements, Marie projects Jane's intensity, her determination to escape the abusive environment of her family, and the freedom experienced by all at the audio's end. *S.W.*

Listening Library 10.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593744390 $27.50
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593744406 $50.00

ONE LAST CHANCE TO LIVE

Francisco X. Stork
Read by Christian Barillas

Narrator Christian Barillas's youthful, expressive voice tells the story of 17-year-old Nico Kardos. Nico can't get over the death of his friend, Rosario. The story, written as journal entries, sheds light on Nico's feelings as he aspires to attend college and become a writer. But his ambitions are halted when his single mother gets cancer and the care of his 12-year-old brother falls on him. Nico worries that his brother will fall into addiction and crime like others in his Bronx neighborhood. Barillas captures Nico's desperate situation with his apt vocal skills, portraying all the characters with convincing accents and varying timbres. He fully conveys Nico's struggle to to stay true to his dreams, rather than go down the easy path of criminal activities. *A.M.*

Scholastic Audiobooks 6.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781546136934 $24.99 (also CD)
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781546136941 $74.99

INEVITABLE FATE

Lindsay K. Bandy
Read by Andrew Bates

Andrew Bates narrates a clever story about a young artist who is confronting destiny while breaking free of the shackles of the past. Evan skips senior year to attend an elite art program at New York University. There he crosses paths with the spitting image of a girl he painted from his imagination. Bates imbues Evan with youthful brightness; he's brimming with optimism tinged with immaturity. When the story pulls Evan through time, Bates maintains the sense of a sweeping adventure. A blossoming relationship with the mysterious girl, Mara, injects heart and a heady romance, with Bates smoothly shifting between youthful joy and rapid-fire banter. Bates enhances this engrossing young adult fantasy-romance, which questions the importance of the past and the ambiguity of the future. *J.J.M.*

CamCat Publishers 10.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780744310931 $22.95

CRUZITA AND THE MARIACHEROS

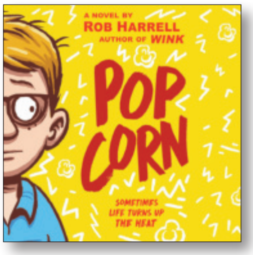
Ashley Granillo
Read by EJ Lavery

EJ Lavery's heartfelt narration captures a landscape of emotions and family dynamics in this coming-of-age novel. Lavery's firm yet gentle tone captures the tension and love within Cruzita's family as they try to keep alive the legacy of her great-uncle's bakery and Cruzita's dreams of becoming a pop star. Most convincing are Lavery's portrayals of teenager Cruzita's stubbornness, remorse, and joy, as well as her excitement over her career goal and disdain for her cultural ties to tortillas and mariachi music. Lavery's performance highlights this audiobook's rich theme of cultural identity. The listening experience will spark thoughtful discussions about the value of family, the pursuit of dreams, and the complexities of growing up. *M.F.*

Tantor Media 5.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 10+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798855550764 $15.99
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798855550771 $39.95

POPCORN

Rob Harrell
Read by Em Grosland

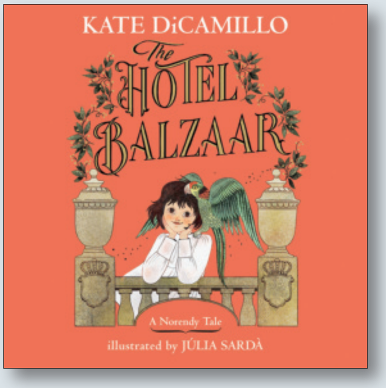


Em Grosland narrates this story of a school-picture day gone wrong. Andrew is a worrier, and today he has more than enough to worry about. Besides his best friend's new friends, his mom's new job, and his grandmother's worsening Alzheimer's, he has to spend his day dodging bullies, basketballs, ketchup rockets, and getting his photograph taken. Grosland expertly blends Andrew's wry sense of humor with his forthright explanations of his struggles with anxiety and obsessive behaviors. As the pressure builds inside Andrew, Grosland subtly increases their pitch and speed to mimic the sensations being described. The audio production effectively uses sound effects, lively music, and Grosland's exaggerated tones to stand in for the illustrated panels included in the print edition. *N.M.*

Listening Library 4.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593945896 $15.00
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593945902 $38.00

THE HOTEL BALZAAR:
Norendy Tales, Book 2

Kate DiCamillo
Read by Allan Corduner



The cavernous voice of narrator Allan Corduner is the listener's first clue that this enchanted story is more expansive than the tiny, spartan attic room where Marta and her mother live above The Hotel Balzaar. While Marta's mother toils as the hotel's maid, Marta's job is to be unseen and unheard. Corduner's booming voice initially seems incongruous with the contemplative Marta and the mysterious diminutive countess who comes to stay at the hotel with her parrot. However, Corduner's emotionally modulating narration entrances the listener and transports them far from the strict confines of the hotel. Corduner gives depth to Marta's thoughts of her missing father and believability to the seven magical stories the countess tells her. *L.T.*

Listening Library 2.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593683095 $11.00
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593683101 $28.00

Corduner's emotionally modulating narration entrances the listener.

THE SHERLOCK SOCIETY

James Ponti
Read by Mark Sanderlin

Narrator Mark Sanderlin creates an energetic and determined voice for 12-year-old Alex Sherlock, who establishes "The Sherlock Society Detective Agency" with his sister, Zoe, two best friends, and his retired grandfather. When his mom finds out and puts an end to it, the group decides to try to find Al Capone's hidden treasure instead. While trying to solve this mystery, they happen upon another case and work to bring the criminals to justice. Sanderlin captures the excitement and emotions of the characters as they encounter uncertainty and danger. Listeners, especially mystery fans, will eagerly cheer on Alex and his companions on their daring adventure. *M.D.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 6.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668108147 $19.99

OUT OF MY DREAMS:
Out of My Mind, Book 3

Sharon M. Draper
Read by Sisi Aisha Johnson

Narrator Sisi Aisha Johnson creates a determined voice for seventh-grader Melody, who has cerebral palsy and uses a device to communicate with others. When her neighbor, Miss Gertie, has a fall, Melody jumps in to save the day by calling 9-1-1 on her device. Following the incident, Melody is invited to speak at a symposium in England and travels there with her newfound friend, Miss Gertie. Johnson excels at expressing Melody's mixed emotions as she faces challenges in the initial emergency and then later in her travels. Listeners and fans of the first two novels in this series will cheer for Melody once again as she shares her story and ideas with the world. *M.D.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 6.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 10+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781797122458 $19.99 (also CD)

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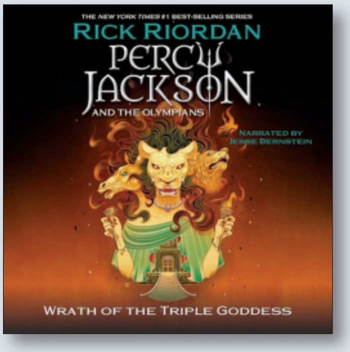
ULTRAVIOLET
Aida Salazar
Read by Alejandro Antonio Ruiz

Narrator Alejandro Antonio Ruiz dazzles listeners with their vocal range and agility. Ruiz convincingly portrays characters of different ages and genders, displaying an impressive command over their versatile voice. Eighth-grader Elio Solis has become more aware of his body, emotions, and female classmates. He feels his world has become radiantly ultraviolet when his classmate Camelia agrees to be his girlfriend. His joy soon turns to anger when she betrays him. Luckily, Elio's loving family encourages his emotional maturity, teaching him about puberty, toxic masculinity, consent, and life in general while embracing their Mexican American heritage. Ruiz proves to be a master narrator with impressive vocal talent. They rise to the challenge of successfully conveying a wide range of emotions. *A.M.*

Scholastic Audiobooks 3 hrs. Unabridged Ages 10+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781546118695 $24.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781546118701 $74.99

WRATH OF THE TRIPLE GODDESS: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 7
Rick Riordan
Read by Jesse Bernstein



Jesse Bernstein brings Percy Jackson to life in this seventh installment in the series. Percy is tasked with house-sitting for the goddess Hecate and her two pets, a polecat and a hellhound. When the house is destroyed and the pets escape, Percy and his friends Annabeth and Grover must fix things before Hecate returns. Bernstein's vocal characterizations match each personality perfectly: from Hecate's three terrifying talking heads to Annabeth's wise and calm demeanor, from Grover's panicked bumbling to a group of witches' cackling timbres. Bernstein is so talented that he can infuse three door knockers with three distinct personalities and make listeners chuckle in the midst of worrying about what will happen next. And always there is Percy, fumbling his way through predicaments with his cheerful hope for the best. *L.M.G.*

Disney Hyperion 8.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 10+
Trade Ed.: $19.49

Bernstein's vocal characterizations match each personality perfectly.

DAYDREAMER
Rob Cameron
Read by Kevin D. Thelwell

Narrator Kevin Thelwell approaches this middle-grade fantasy with a tender yet adventurous spirit. Charles has an active imagination. He lives in an apartment with his mother and his building's manager, Glory, who turns into a dragon. When he suddenly sees his bully classmates turn into ogres and finds trolls moving into his building, Charles leans on Glory to help him navigate this new world of blended reality and fantasy. Thelwell is fully believable as a curious middle schooler. He gives daydreamer Charles a wispy, inquisitive voice that floats through an engaging story. A young audience may relate to Charles's reluctance to root himself in the real world, at times, and to his cunning problem-solving. A fun listen. *G.M.*

Listening Library 11.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 10+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593865828 $27.50
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593865835 $69.00

SEOUL FOOD
Erin Danielle Russell
Read by Anire Kim Amoda

Anire Kim Amoda brings youthful enthusiasm to her portrayal of a biracial girl named Hana and her culinary challenge. Grandma and Grandpa Williams are from South Carolina, and cherish gumbo, while Halmoni (Grandmother) and Harabeoji (Grandfather) are from South Korea, and savor kimchi. What can young Hana cook to please everyone's palate? Amoda's light, engaging voice brings out Hana's thoughtfulness and eagerness in bridging the diverse cuisines. Budding foodies may be especially impressed by Amoda's smooth pronunciation of the glossary of global food terms and Hana's creative recipe for Korean gumbo. Amoda's delightful performance also conveys the book's heartwarming message: The love and care behind a meal outweigh the importance of the dish itself. *M.F.*

Listening Library 9 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217014491 $5.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217014507 $22.00

THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF BIRDS
Lynne Kelly
Read by Ferdelle Capistrano

Narrator Ferdelle Capistrano sweetly narrates this story about thriving when you find something you love. Bird-loving Nina feels out of place in her large family and with the kids at school. Her Aunt Aubrey, a camp director, invites her to spend the summer with her. Feeling out of place at the campers' arrivals, Nina asks her parents to come get her. But she quickly changes her mind upon discovering a nest of two endangered whooping cranes. Unable to hide her joy and enthusiasm, Nina begins to form friendships with fellow campers and builds relationships with caring adults. Capistrano has a tender, childlike voice when portraying Nina and a smooth, kind voice when depicting adults. A delightful listening experience for those interested in nature and conservation. *A.M.*

Listening Library 4.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593865781 $18.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593865798 $45.00

HOW TO SING A SONG
Written by Newbery Medalist
KWAME ALEXANDER & RANDY PRESTON
Cover art by Caldecott Honoree
MELISSA SWEET

HOW TO SING A SONG

Kwame Alexander, Randy Preston
Read by Randy Preston

Singer-songwriter Randy Preston gives voice to and plays music for the third book in this "how to" series. Opening with guitar music, Preston then provides a nuanced, emotional performance of the text. Speaking with energy and varied volume, pacing, and pitch, he encourages kids to listen to sounds all around them, feel the music inside them, and let it take control as it goes round and round and then leaps into the sky. During his narration, guitar notes are plucked and chords strummed in the background, providing rhythm and structure. At the end are a note from Preston about cowriting this "instruction manual for music making" with Alexander and a note from illustrator Melissa Sweet on how the art for the picture book edition was created. *S.D.B.*

Harper Audio 6 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063060957 $2.99

A nuanced, emotional performance.

RED BIRD DANCED

Dawn Quigley
Read by Jennifer Bobiwash, Darrell Dennis

Jennifer Bobiwash and Darrell Dennis deliver powerful performances as Ariel and Tomah, Native American teenagers who are living in an urban intertribal housing project. A musical introduction sets an inspiring and reflective tone for this moving dual narrative. Bobiwash captures Ariel's love of ballet, which diminished after the disappearance of her Auntie Bineshiinh. Bobiwash also depicts Ariel's frustrated attempts to understand and address community issues. Dennis captures the delicate balance between Tomah's insecurity about reading and his carefree facade. Bobiwash's heartfelt portrayal also showcases the reasons that dance is metaphorical freedom for both Ariel and Tomah. Compassionate narrations convey cultural identity, social issues, and coming-of-age themes that may inspire thoughtful conversations among kids and adults alike. *M.F.*

Harper Audio 1.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063223653 $27.99

THE TRUTH ABOUT DRAGONS

Julie Leung
Read by Catherine Ho

Catherine Ho's thoughtful delivery is ideal for this enchanting story contrasting Eastern and Western dragon mythologies. Listeners meet an Asian American boy whose mother's storytelling introduces his dual heritage. The boy's grandmothers become involved, too, and Ho never missteps in portraying each woman's gentle and loving voice. The Western grandma describes a dense forest and its scary inhabitants, including a fierce lizard-like creature. But she lives in a welcoming cottage and assures him all is well. The Eastern grandmother tells of a serene dragon with a pearl in its chin. Ho's soothing storytelling style echoes the value of having two cultures. Alluring music and the enticing sound effects of a brook and blowing leaves add to the dreamlike tale. *S.G.B.*

THE TRUTH ABOUT DRAGONS
Written by Julie Leung
Illustrated by Hanna Cha

Macmillan Audio 6 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250374578 $1.99

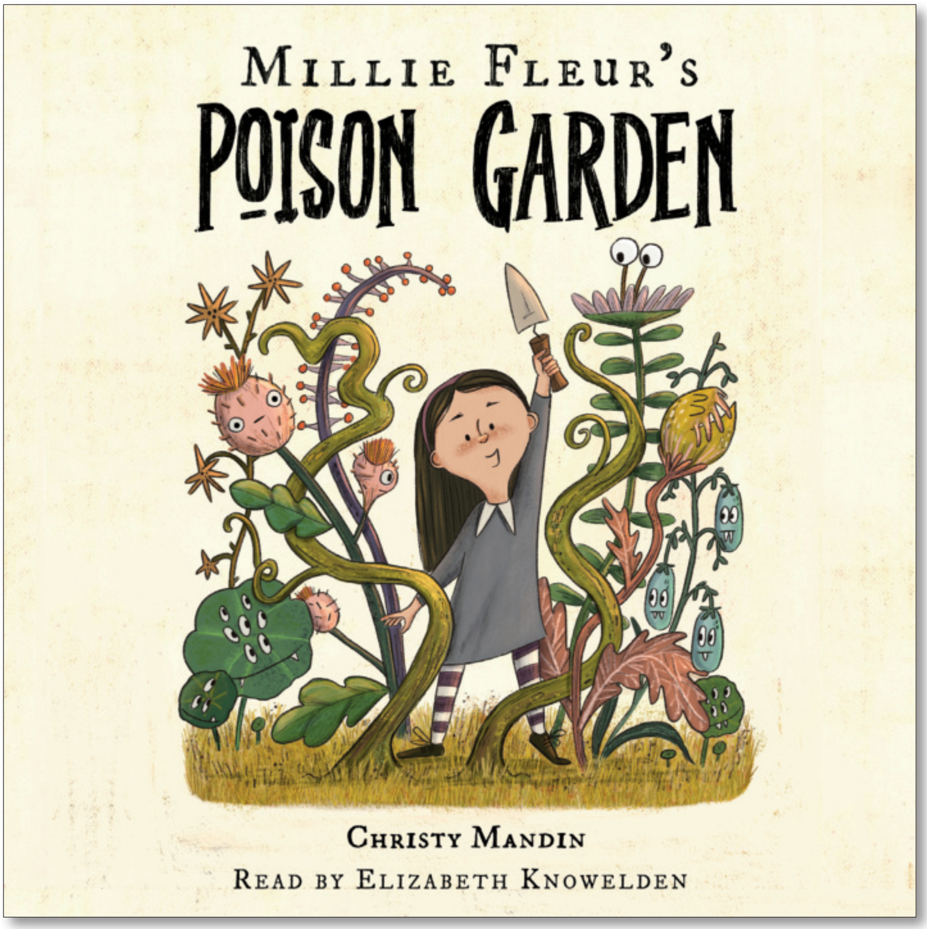
NOTHING: John Cage and *4'33"*

Nicholas Day
Read by Fred Berman

Carefully selected ambient sounds combine with Fred Berman's deliberate narration as this audiobook and accompanying picture book tell the story of the inaugural performance of composer John Cage's *4'33"*—in which a pianist sat at his instrument for four minutes and 33 seconds without playing it. Biographical passages about Cage alternate with the "concert" itself. The papery flutter of a page turning guides young listeners through Chris Raschka's sunny watercolor illustrations of Nicholas Day's text. Berman's exquisite sense of pace ensures that children slow down and listen, which, as they'll learn from the extensive author's note, is the whole point. This audio production of a picture book about the sounds of "nothing" is a little mind-bending—in the best possible way. *V.S.*

Live Oak Media 10 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Book & Recording: DD ISBN 9781430145530 $12.95
(also CD)

MILLIE FLEUR'S POISON GARDEN
Christy Mandin
Read by Elizabeth Knowelden



Elizabeth Knowelden's vibrant performance sparkles in a fantastically fun story that celebrates uniqueness. Young Millie Fleur La Fae's garden, with plants like sneezing stickyweed and fanged fairy moss, clashes with Garden Glen's theme of sameness and perfection. Millie considers planting more ordinary flora that would blend in and be considered less "weird" but devises an alternative plan that celebrates her individuality. Knowelden captivates with her mastery of animated and eclectic character voices—enhanced by a lively chorus of sound effects and music. Young readers following with the read-along will enjoy the musical cues to turn pages, while Knowelden's playful narration, filled with lively alliteration and audacious onomatopoeia, promises to enchant adults, as well. You'll wish this sparkling audio experience would last longer. *M.F.*

Scholastic Audiobooks 28 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781546166528 $6.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781546166535 $20.99

FELIX POWELL, BOY DOG
Erin Entrada Kelly
Read by Ramón de Ocampo

Ramón de Ocampo's narration quickly reveals the close relationship between 8-year-old Felix Powell and his dog, Mary Puppins. Instead of barks, Felix hears clearly the British accent of his canine best friend. De Ocampo builds Felix's quirky, questioning manner so that listeners are not surprised when he buys an old thrift store blanket that he's sure has magic, hides beneath it, and emerges as a dog. De Ocampo creates believability with Felix's delight in exploring his newfound sensory abilities and running on four legs. Humor emerges with the introduction of Gumbo, a cat who voices her superiority in a Southern accent and is slow to reveal how Felix can return to human form. Science, humor, fantasy, and suspense are well balanced in the first in this series for beginning listeners. *S.W.*

Harper Audio 1.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063337190 $20.99

WHAT CAN A MESS MAKE?
Bee Johnson
Read by Karissa Vacker

Karissa Vacker's gentle voice ripples with mirth as she recites Bee Johnson's descriptions of the many things a mess can make: meals and snacks, props for imaginative play, art, a squabble, a reconciliation, and more. Lists of messes conveyed in bouncy rhyme unfurl alongside a jaunty soundtrack augmented by occasional sound effects. These last are often necessary to fully understand the nature of some of the messes. The sound of breaking crockery underscores how a "heavy platter" and "little hands" lead to "a change in plans." These ensure that listeners who enjoy the audiobook without the picture book will follow the verses' gist. (Those with Johnson's illustrations in hand will see a smashed bowl of spaghetti and the delivered pizza that becomes dinner.) An exuberant celebration. *V.S.*

Macmillan Audio 3 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250343420 $1.99

BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR
Grace Lin
Read by Elaine Wang

Elaine Wang deliberately presents this endearing story in which a Chinese American girl shares the details of her New Year celebration. Listeners meet Meimei as she and her family prepare for the Lunar New Year. Wang's Meimei dutifully describes her family's customs and rituals: sweeping the old year from the house, using firecrackers to scare away the previous year, and using lanterns to light the new year's appearance. Cheering erupts when Auntie paints eyes on their beloved dragon. The earnest conclusion reveals that the Lunar New Year is China's most celebrated holiday, and dragon's eyes are painted to chase away the sun. Very young listeners and their families will enjoy this festive tale. *S.G.B.*

Bringing In the NEW YEAR
新年快樂
Grace Lin

Listening Library 5 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217014460 $5.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217014453 $5.00

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🎧 Exceptional audiobooks awarded "Earphones."

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Remembering President Jimmy Carter

When he passed in December at the age of 100, former President Jimmy Carter had lived a full, fulfilling, and inspirational life, much of it after his time in the White House. He also left behind many writings, including audiobooks that he narrated himself in his familiar voice—two of which were Spoken Word Grammy Award nominees. Seek out any of the audiobooks below to learn more about the man throughout the many stages of his century of life.

FAITH: A JOURNEY FOR ALL

Jimmy Carter, read by Jimmy Carter

Have you ever wondered why a president of the United States made a particular decision, or what it is that drove him to engage in politics at the highest level? Jimmy Carter offers a seat at his kitchen table as he narrates his own work looking at his faith, which he points to as the driving force for everything he has done.

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD

AN HOUR BEFORE DAYLIGHT: Memories of a Rural Boyhood

Jimmy Carter, read by Jimmy Carter

Not since Abraham Lincoln have Americans become as familiar with another humble U.S. President raised in the heart of farm country as they are with Jimmy Carter. Carter revisits his Depression-era childhood growing up in Georgia before the Civil Rights Movement. This is an inspirational story of a family pulling together during tough times while living with dignity and the resultant respect and goodness that propelled a young boy to become a kind and revered leader.

Simon & Schuster Audio Abridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD

BEYOND THE WHITE HOUSE: Waging Peace, Fighting Disease, Building Hope

Jimmy Carter, read by Jimmy Carter, Rosalynn Carter

Jimmy Carter is a man without artifice, and his charming book reflects that same directness. His presentation is a simple, straightforward reading of his text. Listeners familiar with his presidential speeches will recognize the distinctive Georgia drawl. As the book progresses and Carter discusses his and Rosalynn's work on health issues in some of the most desperately poor places on earth, he becomes much more animated. And it is with obvious warmth and pride that he introduces Rosalynn, who narrates the sections dealing with her personal initiatives.

Simon & Schuster Audio Abridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD

BRINGING PEACE TO A CHANGING WORLD: Sunday Mornings in Plains: Bible Study with Jimmy Carter

Jimmy Carter, read by Jimmy Carter

In December 2001, Jimmy Carter led a month-long Bible study in Plains, Georgia, on the Book of Isaiah, mixing the personal and political into the discussion. The comments on world events that start Carter's lessons illuminate his thoughts and positions as expressed in a candid yet low-key style. Carter's gentle nature makes his principled voice stand out.

Simon & Schuster Audio Audio Program
Trade Ed.: CD, DD

WHITE HOUSE DIARY

Jimmy Carter, read by Jimmy Carter, Byod Gaines

This book is a collection of the author's diaries, notes, and musings while he was in the White House from 1977-1981. Each chapter includes narrative, which Carter reads, and the actual diary entries and notes, which are read by Boyd Gaines. Both give admirable readings. Carter still has his homey Georgia accent and speaks with the assurance of someone who's been on the world stage.

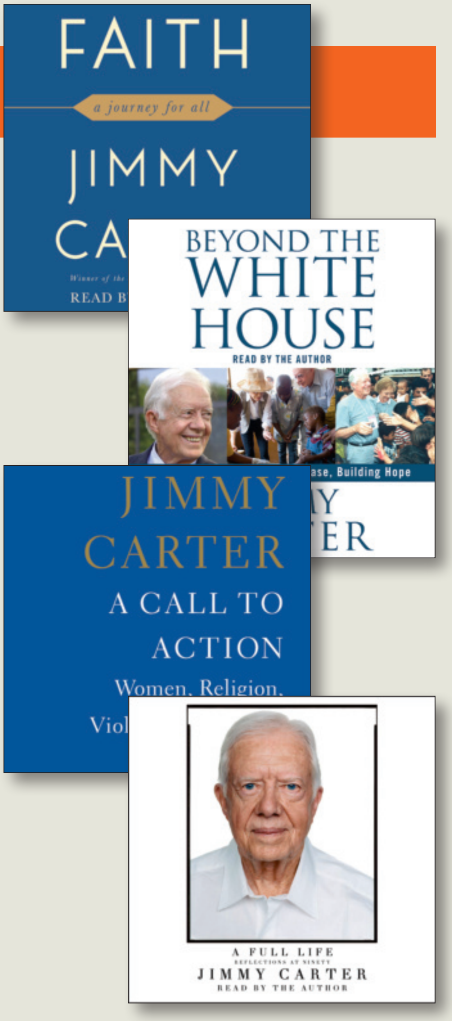
Macmillan Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

A CALL TO ACTION: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power

Jimmy Carter, read by Jimmy Carter

Former President Jimmy Carter's call to action concerns the struggles faced by women around the world. Hearing Carter's ideas in his own voice gives an additional dimension and authority to the work. Carter touches on discriminatory practices that have subjugated women, violence and abuse directed at women, and how religious texts are used to legitimize practices that keep women on a level unequal to that of men. His timely call for equal rights and opportunity for women is sure to raise consciousness on this global issue.

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD



OUR BETTER ANGELS: Seven Simple Virtues That Will Change Your Life and the World

Jonathan Reckford, Jimmy Carter [Fore.], read by Robert Petkoff, Jimmy Carter [Fore.]

Narrator Robert Petkoff conveys Habitat for Humanity's mission of building homes and relationships in a down-to-earth yet uplifting tone. There is compassion in Petkoff's voice as he narrates, successfully capturing the immense joy and fulfillment felt by the recipients of the homes and by the volunteers who work on them. President Jimmy Carter delivers his own foreword with gentleness and sincerity that confirm the author's message about the importance of putting these virtues into action.

Macmillan Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD

A FULL LIFE: Reflections at Ninety

Jimmy Carter, read by Jimmy Carter

Clearly no one but President Carter himself should deliver this memoir. The book reflects his perspective on his years in public life as well as his private life. Overall, the book is informative and at times illuminating, particularly for listeners who've never heard Carter read his other works.

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD

M.R.

M.S.

N.M.

M.R.	Mohana Rajakumar, *Qatar University*, Qatar
M.S.	Michael Sangiacomo, Plain Dealer, OH
N.E.M.	Nancy E. McCarty, *Educator*, PA
N.M.	Natalie Marshall, *Librarian*, GA
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R.C.G.	Richard C. Gotshall, *Retired Journalist*, IN
R.O.	Randy O'Brien, *Educator*, TN
R.W.S.	Richard W. Stim, *Producer*, CA
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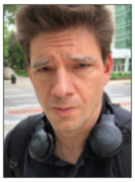
R.C.G.

R.W.S.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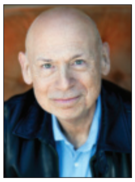
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Listening With . . .

Photo by Kevin Brusie

Joseph Finder

Author
Boston, Massachusetts

▶ Author Joseph Finder knew exactly the voice he wanted for his newest thriller, *The Oligarch's Daughter*. "I've been listening to a lot of audiobooks, and I'm more and more aware of how important the narrator is. There are so many scenes in the book in which my main adversary, Arkady, is speaking, and I was really nervous that the narrator might do a kind of Boris Badenov accent." Finder asked the publisher, "Can we get someone who can do a really good Russian accent?" Harper Audio obliged—narrators auditioned by reading a chapter and doing Arkady's voice in English with a Russian accent. "They were all good," Finder says, "but one jumped out at me as being the perfect voice for this book, and that was Mark Bramhall." Finder recently made the switch from podcasts to audiobooks. "I was listening to a lot of political podcasts during the election, and I realized this was not good for my blood pressure. So I decided it was time to listen to audiobooks while I'm working out." All fiction—*You Like it Darker* by Stephen King and narrated by Will Patton is a recent favorite. "That's a great combination of narrator and story."—*Jennifer Dowell*

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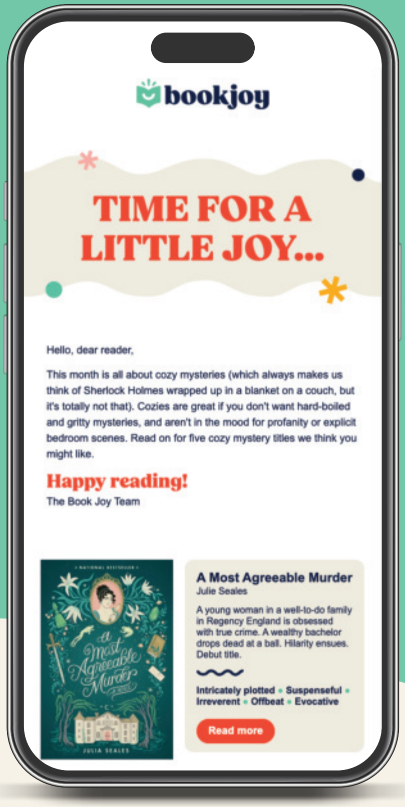

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TIME FOR A LITTLE JOY...

Hello, dear reader,

This month is all about cozy mysteries (which always makes us think of Sherlock Holmes wrapped up in a blanket on a couch, but it's totally not that). Cozies are great if you don't want hard-boiled and gritty mysteries, and aren't in the mood for profanity or explicit bedroom scenes. Read on for five cozy mystery titles we think you might like.

Happy reading!

The Book Joy Team

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Julie Seales

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9:41
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AGE OF THE FIVE TRILOGY
Chapter 3
VOICE OF THE GODS
Read by Sarah Douglas
Bolinda
complete & unabridged
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9:35
20 hr, 13 min left
-47:07
15
1x
LAST OF THE WILDS
Chapter 7
12 hr, 57 min left

Read by Sarah Douglas

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